

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

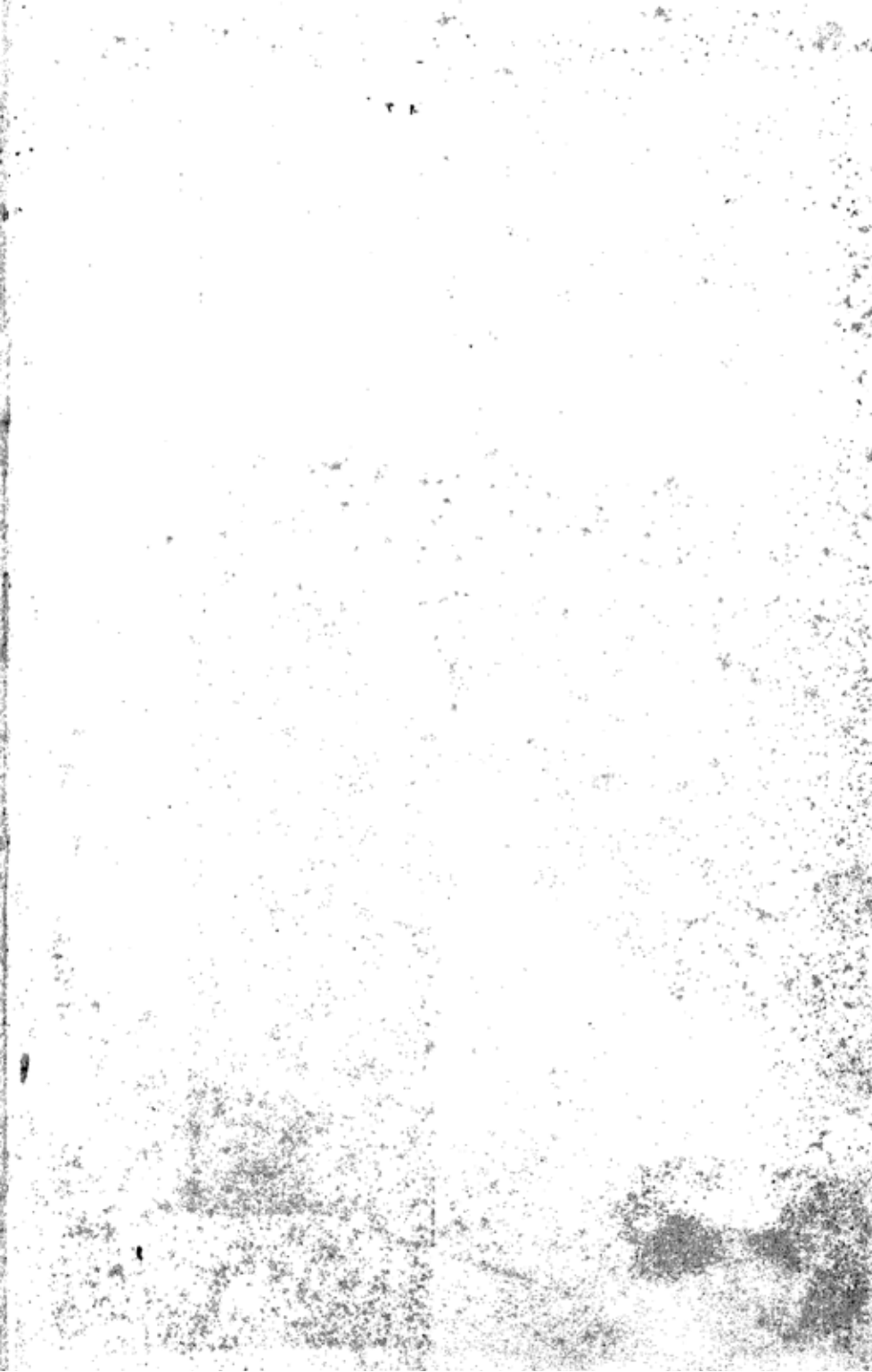
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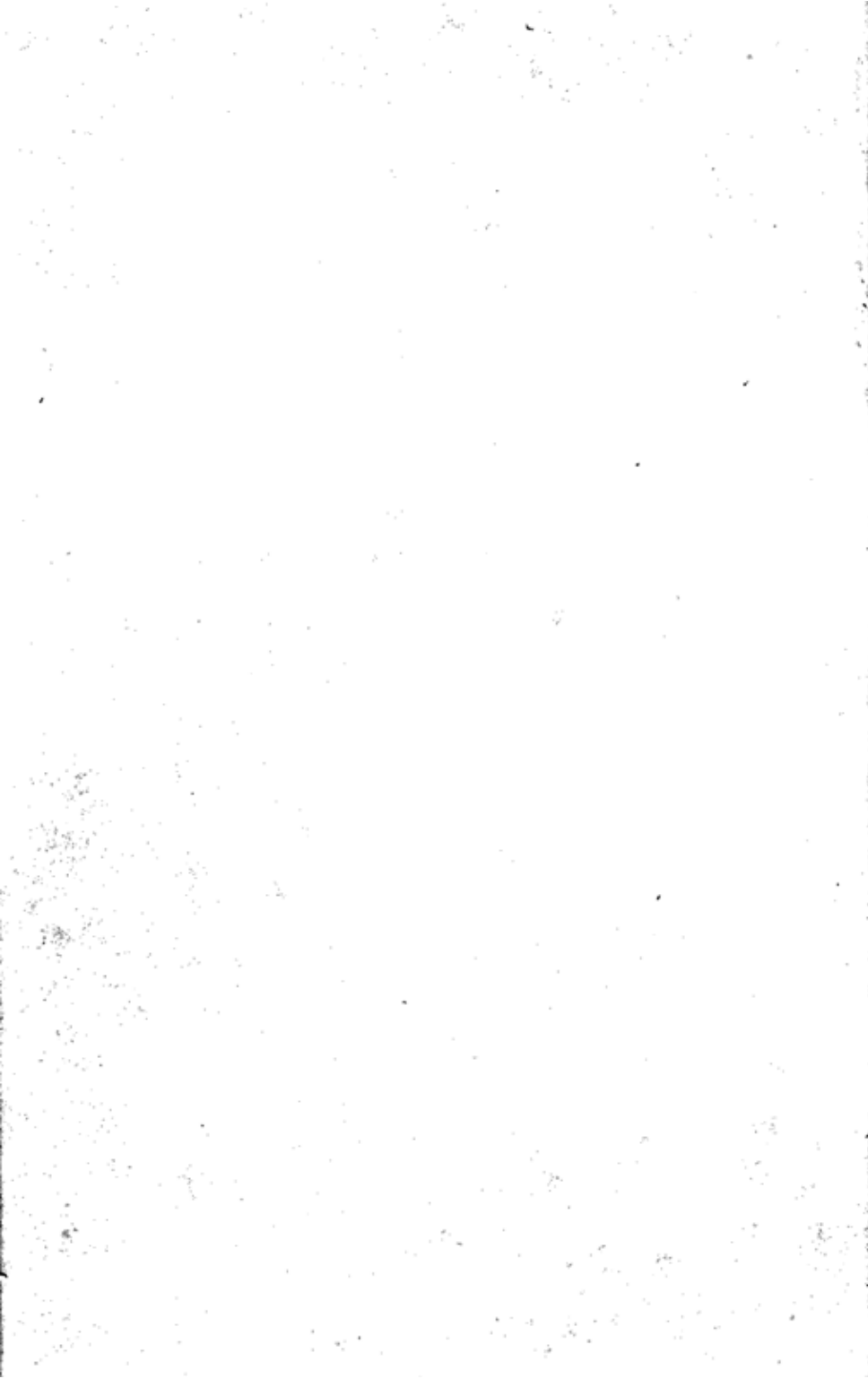
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INDIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

English Series, 1

LIBRARY TOUR 1948

OTHER BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR

General

1. Five laws of library science. 1931
2. Education for leisure. 1946; 1949
3. Preface to library science. 1948
4. Rural adult education. 1949

Organisation

5. Model library act. 1931
6. Model public library bill. 1941
7. Post-war reconstruction of libraries in India. 1944
8. National library system: A plan for India. 1946
9. Library development plan with a draft library bill for Bombay. 1947
10. Library development plan with a draft library bill for the United Provinces. 1949
11. Library development plan for India. 1950

Administration

12. Library administration. 1935

Classification

13. Colon classification. 1933; 1939; 1950
14. Prolegomena to library classification. 1937
15. Library classification: Fundamentals and procedure. 1944

16. Elements of library classification. 1945
17. Classification of Marathi literature. 1944
18. Classification of Telugu literature. 1947
19. Classification and international documentation. 1948
20. Philosophy of library classification. 1950

Cataloguing

21. Classified catalogue code. 1934; 1945
22. Theory of library catalogue. 1938
23. Dictionary catalogue code. 1945
24. Library catalogue: Fundamentals and procedure. 1950

Reference Service

25. Reference service and bibliography. 1940

Bibliography

26. Bibliography of reference books and bibliographies. 1941

Academic libraries

27. School and college libraries. 1942
28. Library development plan for the University of Allahabad. 1947
29. Library organisation in India. 1946

LIBRARY TOUR 1948

EUROPE AND AMERICA

IMPRESSIONS AND REFLECTIONS

AN
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BY

S. R. RANGANATHAN

M.A., D.Litt., L.T., F.L.A.

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DELHI

INDIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1950

The Five Laws of Library Science

1. Books are for use.
2. Every reader his or her book.
3. Every book its reader.
4. Save the time of the reader.
5. A library is a growing organism.

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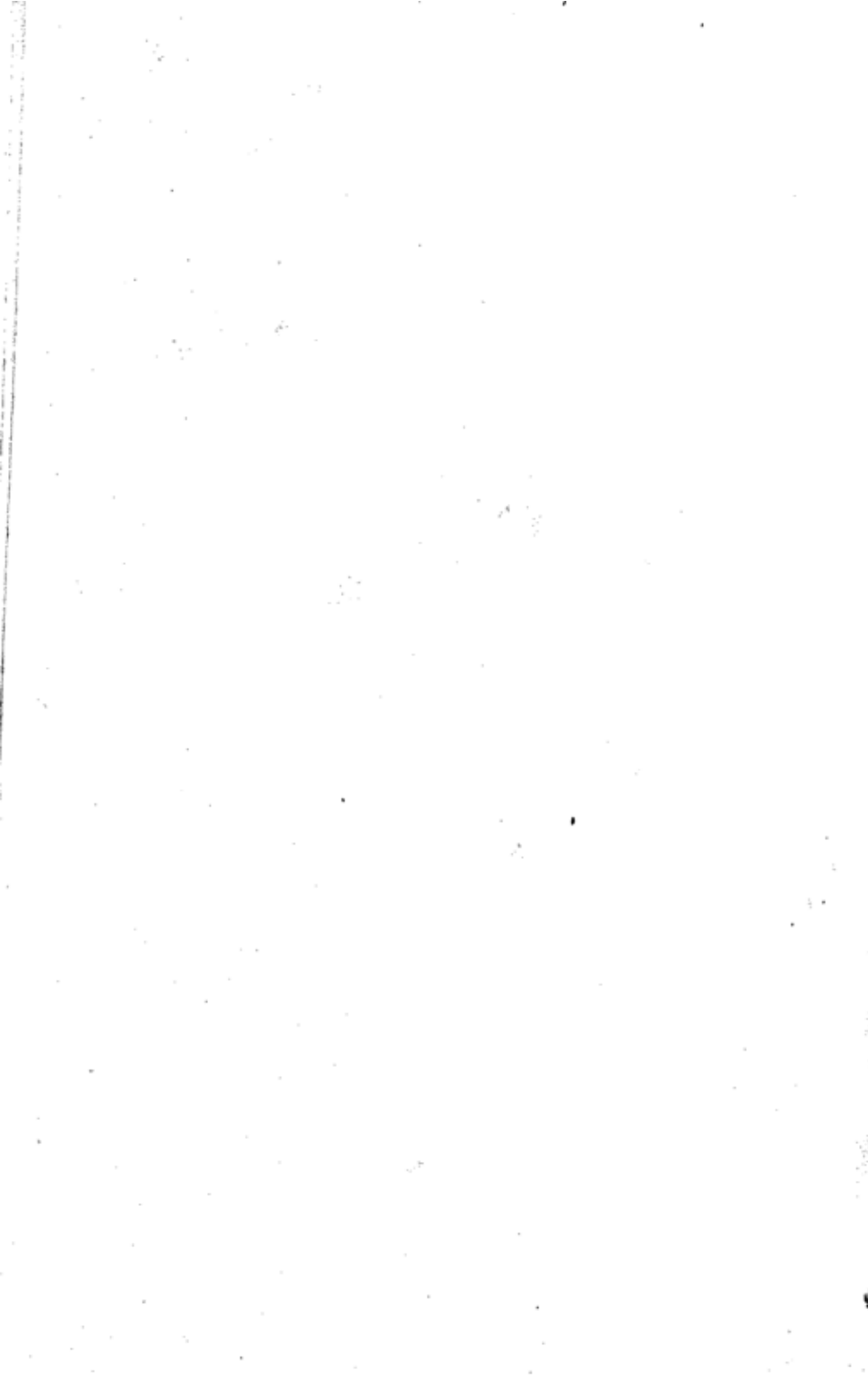
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TO
SIR MAURICE GWYER
G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., K.C.B.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author's thanks are due to:

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8. The Indian Library Association for having included this book in their English series; and

9. The Madras Publishing House (1945) Ltd., for the neat way in which this book has been printed.

PREFACE

The Indian Library Association is glad to float its English series as one of the means of turning public thought on the development of a comprehensive public library service in India.

This book is the first of the series. The Association hopes to continue its publishing activity hereafter with full vigour.

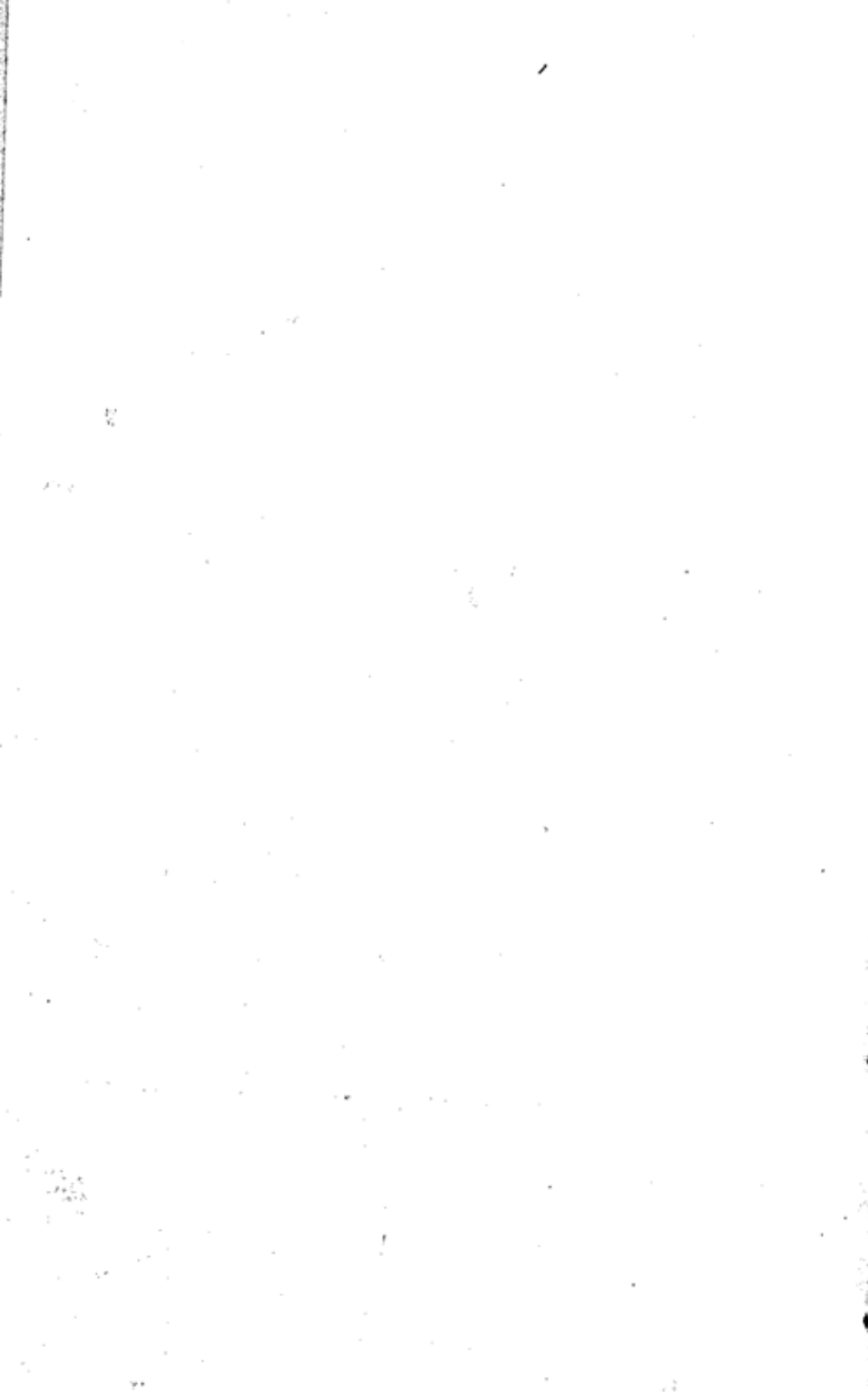
The Association is thankful to Dr. S. R. Ranganathan for his kindly placing at its disposal the type-script of the impressions and reflections which are the results of his recent tour of the West.

The book gives interesting pen-pictures of several new developments in library service. These will be of help to the various governments and the library authorities of our country in shaping their library programme.

It includes also suggestions which may be of value to the countries he visited.

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CONSPECTUS

Occasionally I used to dream being in London, losing my way, not finding the University College and so on! But little did I dream that I would again go West; with the result, when I was actually there for four months in 1948, I used to feel occasionally that it was all only a dream. Yes. Life and dream! Dream and life!! There may be moments when they get telescoped; there may be a state of life in which the boundary between dream and reality may vanish. Whether it was a dream or a reality, it was a most pleasant experience.

The friendliness, the ease of living, which is, as it were, diffused in one's manifold contacts in a familiar society, I found in every country visited. Whether it was a home in Paris, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oslo, London, Reading, Oxford, Edinburgh, Leeds, New York, Washington, Littlehampton, Brighton, Eastbourne or Branby, its atmosphere never made me feel being away from Delhi. Even the refugee atmosphere of Delhi was provided when the Polish refugees were entertained at the Lea Gate House, Branby, on the day I was in it. It was not merely the librarian friends that made it so, but also the members of their family and particularly the children. It was so not merely in homes but also in libraries. Whichever library I went into, I found that the Five Laws and the Colon Classification had already filled it with familiar friends. My wings could expand in an atmosphere of love which made me whole.

At the vital level my bodily needs were attended to, almost to perfection. My vegetarian habit seems to have been known to all the hosts. When we went out in a large party it was often embarrassing to find a pot of whole milk being placed on my table alone. The thoughtfulness of the British Council made the very

aeroplanes carry a special basket of vegetarian food and fruits for me.

At the mental level, it was one continuous stream of exhilaration. The quickness with which air-travel took me from country to country left hardly a total day in all the four months of the tour, without visit to a new library or without contact with a new librarian. This gave a new range of vision, a new comprehension of experience and a new complex of harmonies.

There was a fundamental difference between this tour and the sojourn twenty-five years ago. It was then all taking and no giving. It was now both giving and taking. This osmotic equilibrium, so to speak, gave the joy which one feels when the mind is in flood approaching its highest level.

In the spiritual sphere, it was a remarkable revelation of the Identity of humans. At the Hague Conference, persons from 20 nations met to exchange ideas. The audible exchange involved a multiplicity of tongues, which emphasised the difference, notwithstanding the sameness of thought. Perhaps my solitary figure in Indian costume added to it. But the inaudible, invisible, intangible communion in spirit dissolved all differences and disclosed the oneness at the true depths. The potency of the sense of Identity was even more felt in the three weeks when 25 nations lived in Manchester under the same roof of the lovely Ashbourne Hall charged with Morley memory, playing, dining, thinking, talking and sleeping together as one family. The continued jostling together of 55 centres of radiation of love and regard illumined the innermost recesses and disclosed the blissful Identity.

I could just get a glimpse of the all-pervading image of God, so to speak. I could just sense the delight of being all-permeable to a Higher Power. I could just realise that there can be no condition of more perfect activity for the finite man than that of being used by

a power which is all-knowing and infinite. Acceptance was involuntary. Both mind and body became participating channels for the spirit. Acceptance is a wonderful transformer. Acceptance can transform misery into happiness and lower happiness into higher happiness. The greatest happiness I have known—I have known very great happiness—has come by acceptance. When I was arraigned and prevented from completing a limited piece of work into which I had poured myself, it was acceptance which transformed threatening misery into happiness. When the invitation came to crowd into four months the experience which would have taken four decades, it was again acceptance which transformed happiness of a lower order into one of a higher order.

This was the personal aspect.

There was also a national aspect. This aspect too comprehended many facets. My first sojourn was from a dependent India. The consciousness of belonging to a dependency was unconsciously weighing me down. In the tour now described, I could walk erect. It was a joy to know first-hand that the American and European people were happy to find India independent. The Britisher's remarkable resilience and respect for independent India was even more noteworthy.

The tour also brought home the responsibilities of independence. It showed the great precautions being taken by independent nations to make each citizen contribute to the maintenance of independence by his industry and integrity. The library is used everywhere as a great lever to lift the people to a higher level of awareness, ability and application. The library has come to be used to sublimate leisure and make it a source for national energy.

The respect which independence brings, and the industry, information and work-chastity which independence demands, turned thought involuntarily on the

needs and opportunity of new India. The moment has come when it is possible and necessary to build. The mere apparatus of democracy and the mere insignia of independence are no safeguard against anarchy or degeneracy. Unless the masses who are now entering political power are educated into a new conception of civic responsibility and at the same time the educated classes are helped to a development of themselves as moral persons so secure that they could use the new State as the instrument of a new civilisation, chaos will result. A universal library service is necessary, though not sufficient, to transform an independent people in this manner.

There is urgent need to establish a nation-wide grid of libraries activated by a hundred thousand souls of exceptional merit and unquenchable love of humanity, who dedicate themselves to the uttermost to the mission of spreading the awareness of the opportunity and the needs of this eventful period and of creating the capacity of response to its demands. The best of our eternal books should be reprinted in millions and the best of our men should be spared to work in libraries and to so stimulate soul of our people with them that it begins to glow. The best and the latest information on every art and craft and on every process of technology should be culled from the recorded nascent thought emerging in every part of the world, and fed to our artisans and technologists by documentalists of the greatest possible skill. The formations in the deepest layers of the field of knowledge should be relayed to those who pursue the fundamental sciences—physical, natural and social—by reference librarians of the most sensitive kind.

Dependence on the unaided native insight of the chosen few is totally inadequate. Every one should have free access to any information he may need at any time. Every one except the imbecile should be helped to

acquire the maximum knowledge, skill and competence of which he may be capable. These are among the fundamental rights formulated by the Sankey Committee. Our library service should promote such a rational adjustment to the profound changes of the time. If this be not done, if every adult is not provided the opportunity—a free library service is one of the elements in it—to occupy himself fully with a global unfoldment of his own personality to its own fulness and at its own speed, and if our educational methods are not so changed that our children and youth are fired to engage themselves in guided exploration with the help of laboratories and libraries pulsating with life, the irrational destructive revolution will erupt from the depths of the nation. God forbid!

Such was the mental background induced by what I saw in so many countries. My training and my vocation made me visualise the intimate way in which social progress and progress of library service stood connected as the two vital end-links of a chain of action in a free people. I give in the following pages the impression and reflections induced by that vision.

Chapter 0 indicates the genesis of the tour.

Chapter 1 is turned on the general trend in the development of National Central Libraries. It suggests that India can now show a new way by designing her National Central Library in an eclectic manner.

Chapter 2 describes the great stride which rationalisation has made in the organisation and administration of public libraries in cities.

Chapter 3 gives an account of the thorough coverage being made by the rural library system and the resulting cultivation of the human resources towards a most productive state.

Chapter 4 is devoted to the school, college and university libraries and their functioning as the heart of academic institutions.

LIBRARY TOUR

Chapter 5 traces the emergence of documentation service in industrial, departmental and institutional libraries in succession during the last 25 years. It shows the gradual replacement of books by articles in periodicals as the vehicle for the unit of thought to be served.

Chapter 6 pictures the *ad hoc* bodies being, of late, set up in different countries to centralise most of the impersonal jobs in library work. It shows the great opportunity which India now has, to demonstrate the wisdom of setting up an omnibus national body to take up all such jobs and of locating it in the National Central Library.

Chapter 7 is on the library profession and the training of library personnel.

Chapter 8 gives an account of the non-library experience which occurred during the tour.

Chapter 9 is a brief record of my library-wish for our Motherland and is a summary of my *Library development plan*.

The annexure gives the chronicle of the tour—the itinerary and the diary.

In a sense I am glad that the Madras Library Association prompted me to write out these impressions and reflections. The *Five laws of library science* which embodied the impressions and reflections induced by my first visit to the West was published by that Association. The friends in several countries used to remark half-seriously and half-jocularly, "And this will all come out as a book!" When I returned home and when the impressions were fresh, the mechanical facility for recording them withdrew itself obstinately. I accepted the situation and abandoned the idea of writing them out. Just one year after my return, the call came from Madras. I had to live back into memory and for about ten days I was in despair as I could recall precious little. Then came a revival and light began to emerge little

CONSPECTUS

by little. In about a month the whole experience was shot up to the conscious level.

Its submergence for a year had been on the whole beneficial. The overwhelming details have gone into oblivion and the essence alone has survived. But one serious handicap has been in the recollection of the names of all those who played an effective part in making the tour profitable, pleasurable, and particularly their correct spelling and initials. For these faults, I crave the indulgence of the friends.

Circumstances have so shaped themselves that the publication of this book has been taken up by the Indian Library Association. There is an appropriateness in this. I accepted the circumstances.

I send this out with the prayer and in the hope that it will permeate itself into public opinion and eventually engage the thought of some statesmen whom the public invest with power to build our nation and who have the wisdom and farsight to build it on the lasting foundations of universal, perpetual self-education and who will not fail to appreciate that a free library service is one of the necessary agencies to lay those foundations and to maintain them for ever in good repair. May God grant this!

CHAPTER 0

GENESIS

The tour in Europe and America from 7 June to 5 October, 1948 was a multi-purpose one in response to the several invitations mentioned below:—

1. Request from the F.I.D. (= International Federation for Documentation) for a memorandum on *Classification and international documentation* (received on 8-10-1947).

2. Invitation to attend the Conference of the F.I.D. to be held at the Hague in June 1948 (received on 30-12-1947).

3. Invitation of the British Council to visit Great Britain as its guest for a period of about two months (handed in by its representative at Delhi on 29-4-1948).

4. Invitation of the Indian Standards Institution to be the leader of its delegation to a meeting of Committee No. 46 of the I.S.O. (= International Standards Organisation) to be held at the Hague at the same time as the Conference of the F.I.D. (received on 7-5-1948).

5. Invitation of the University of Delhi to be its delegate to the Congress of the Universities of the Commonwealth to be held at Oxford in July 1948 (received on 3-6-1948).

6. Letters from the Ministry of Education of the Government of India agreeing that I might visit some of the countries of Europe and study on their behalf the latest developments in library matters in general and national central libraries in particular (received on 5-6-1948).

7. Invitation of the United Nations to serve on its International Advisory Committee of Library Experts (received on 25-6-1948).

8. Invitation of the Unesco to become a member of the Faculty of the International School of Librarianship to be conducted in England in September 1948 (received on 2-7-1948).

9. Request of the Indian Library Association to represent it at the 14th session of the Ifla (= International Federation of Library Associations) to be held in London in September 1948 (received on 6-7-1948).

CHAPTER 1

NATIONAL CENTRAL LIBRARIES

I had been always feeling that one of the first acts of independent India should be the establishment of a grand National Central Library worthy of our heritage, capable of functioning as the central station for the assembling and serving of thought-energy through a nation-wide grid of libraries and endowed with facilities to discharge the library-responsibilities of India in the international sphere as a gentleman among nations. With this end in view I sent a memorandum to the Government of India first in 1945 and again a revised one suited to the impending independent status in 1947. This was brought up for consideration at the Government of India's Committee on the subject appointed in 1947 and was generally approved in the first meeting of the Committee held in March 1948.

The experience in the first meeting convinced me that the Committee could be helped to go beyond vague generalities only by working out details in a concrete manner and I accordingly started writing out detailed memoranda on each of the points covered by the basic memorandum. My approach had naturally to be theoretical in several details. Copies of the basic memorandum had been sent to leading thinkers of the world on library matters. The remarks of some of them made me feel that my recommendations were correct and even in advance of the casual development in many of the already-developed countries. The following remark of Mr. P. J. Carter, the Head of the Libraries Division of the Unesco, was significant. He wrote:

"Every paragraph contains details of one of the most exciting and stimulating pictures that I have ever seen presented of national library development. Your plan covers all the main questions of library centralisation in a way that must meet with Unesco's support. It is quite clear to us from our

short experience as a United Nations organisation that all educational, scientific and cultural services depend in some way on the existence of national library services."

"Most of the specialised services which you describe, for the establishment of a copy-right library, a reservoir library for a national loan and exchange centre, for central cataloguing and bibliographical services etc., are necessary if the total national effort in library services is to be applied efficiently."

"I am impressed by your remark that it is too late now for India to develop its library services in a casual and *laissez-faire* manner—you must jump several steps and by so doing, it is quite possible that you will jump ahead of countries whose development has been more gradual."

Mr. Carl Milam, who had been Secretary of the American Library Association for nearly twenty-five years and had just become the Director of Libraries in the United Nations, wrote:

"I have read with interest and admiration your statement on the National Library of India."

"Your statement is so comprehensive, so up-to-date, that I can find little to criticise or suggest. You have succeeded admirably in my opinion in combining vision and practical planning."

"I am taking the liberty of sending your letter and the document to two or three other people who may wish to communicate with you, particularly if they disagree with anything I have said."

In spite of such assurances from men of experience, I wanted to guard against my proposals being too theoretical. In order to make sure that my approach was along practicable lines, I sent a questionnaire to the National Libraries of about 48 countries. As the replies arrived, I began to realise that a personal visit to the more important ones among them could be the only means of sensing their ethos correctly and of appraising properly the changes that have occurred after my first visit to them twenty-five years ago. For personal experience or personal conversation with those who have had personal experience can shed, upon

problems of organisation and administration, light of a kind which any number of written replies and published descriptions cannot do. The several invitations mentioned in the introductory section synchronised with this feeling of mine and this prepared me to use the opportunity to the best advantage of our country. I saw both good and bad points in many of the national central libraries. But I am recording here only such of them as are of value to us. I was happy to find that the prescription of functions given in my *Memorandum* for our National Central Library was eclectic and that each of those functions had, of late, been assumed by the National Central Library of one country or other, though none has, as yet, begun to assume all the functions.

11 FRANCE

111 The Building

The chief point of value in the National Central Library at Paris, (= *Bibliothèque Nationale*) was the way in which they had been meeting the problem of space during the last few years. They have put up additional tiers in the stack-room. I was told that the engineers so organised this work that there was no need to close down the library for the purpose—a factor of immense satisfaction to the Laws of Library Science. It was gratifying to find that some of the details in my proposed design for our National Central Library tallied literally with what they have in Paris. The stack-room is in ten tiers—two under-ground and eight above-ground.

112 Dormitory Collection

They have built a dormitory collection of reading materials in occasional demand at Versailles, at a distance of about fifty miles from the main library. This collection is in charge of a janitorial staff. Periodically an officer of the main library goes to Versailles to bring

such materials as are required by readers and to put them back after use. This is very much like what we were doing during the war-years when the valuable periodical collections of the Madras University Library were housed at distant Tambaram as a safety measure. They have found it helpful, they said, to transfer to Versailles whole sections of their collection rather than volumes picked out from different sections. There is a "general movement" of books once in five years when additional sections are sent to the dormitory and the remaining books are spread out in the space thus released in the stack-tower. A discussion of the details made me feel that time would be a more effective characteristic in choosing the materials for transfer. Books published before a chosen year are likely to have the least demand. When I visited the Library of Christ Church at Oxford, I found that they had acted on this principle. They had put the books published more than a century ago in the first floor and reserved the ground floor for modern books. To transfer a few whole subjects would no doubt involve less work than to transfer books selected from all subjects. But since use is the paramount test in a library, we must be prepared to follow the latter policy though it involves more work.

113 National Bibliography

The National Central Library of France is co-operating with the book-trade of the country in bringing out an authoritative national bibliography in weekly instalments. In alternative weeks, the list mentions the loose numbers of the periodicals which appeared in the preceding fortnight. The bibliography is based on the copyright materials arriving at the National Central Library and is prepared by the library staff. The book-trade shares the cost of publication. This participation of the trade incidentally secures prompt delivery of new publications at the library.

12 HOLLAND: UNION CATALOGUE

The chief point of value in the National Central Library at the Hague (= The Royal Library) is the maintenance of the Union Catalogue of the holdings of 45 important libraries in the country. Franked covers are supplied by the Royal Library to all the participating libraries so that the latter can periodically send the list of their new accessions free of postage. Free postage is allowed also on all packets sent on inter-library loan, weighing less than two kilograms. There are some 200 enquiries per day. The cumulative catalogue is in about two million loose slips kept in about 1,000 trays. The catalogue is on the basis of "one slip, one book". The location is indicated by serial numbers representing the participating libraries. The arrangement of the slips is alphabetical by the heading. This unfortunate old method takes away considerably from the value of the catalogue, as its help cannot be invoked unless the author is known. The utility of the catalogue would be more than doubled if the catalogue is on the basis of "two slips, one book" the second set of slips being arranged in a classified order and if it includes also class index entries to serve as a key to the classified arrangement. But, no doubt, a "one-book, one-slip" union catalogue will be sufficient as a pure 'location list', if cumulative national catalogues of the home country and of other countries whose books are in frequent use be available in the form of a classified catalogue in the National Central Library.

13 DENMARK: BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

The chief point of value in the National Central Library at Copenhagen (= The Royal Library) is the establishment, in 1946, of the Department of International Exchange Service for reading materials. The Department has a staff of four assistants, two part-timed drivers and one part-timed carpenter. The two motor vans collect and distribute exchange materials within

Copenhagen and its environs. In one year they together do 24,000 despatch, discharges and collection trips. From 1946 to June 1948, 700 boxes weighing 100 tons and 1,000 parcels weighing 5 tons had been sent abroad. 6,143 letters also had been sent out. Excluding the publications from the United States which came in bulk through the Smithsonian Institution, 13,023 parcels had been received. There are 4,000 delivery places distributed among 46 countries. The annual budget of the International Exchange Department is 100,000 crowns or about Rs. 75,000.

It may be added that the postage on exchange packets is not charged to the Library Account, for there is free postal service for all materials going out of the Royal Library.

The Royal Library of Denmark contains one of the biggest collections of Pali manuscripts in the world. The Royal Librarian was good enough to spare a copy of its catalogue though it was out of print.

I had also the privilege of seeing the original manuscripts of the famous astronomer, Tycho Brahe, whose life and collection of empirical data had always impressed me from my college days.

14 SWEDEN

141 A New Feature in International Exchange

The National Central Library of Sweden, as of all the Scandinavian countries, is virtually in two parts: the Royal Library at Stockholm specialising in the humanities and the University Library at Upsala specialising in the Sciences. The Bureau of International Exchange forms part of the latter. A noteworthy element in the policy of international exchange is the way in which it is used as a means for distributing patronage to producers of learned thought. Copies of Swedish learned publications for which exchange can be found in foreign countries are bought by the State by paying

nearly twice the cost. The idea behind this policy is that of using demand in foreign countries as a test for extending patronage for scholarly work. As a result of this policy, many learned bodies, which publish periodicals and bring out annual instalments of books, get a recurring grant from Government without the humiliating process of petitioning and dancing attendance on the bureaucrats who administer such funds. The Swedish people are proud of their independence and this is reflected even in this note-worthy feature of the administration of international exchange.

142 The Collections

I found some beautiful Burmese, Malayalam and Pali manuscripts in the Royal Library. This library is also rich in early printed books. The librarian seems to know every book and manuscript. He has been there for forty years. Before him his uncle was there. And before him his grandfather was Royal Librarian. He showed with legitimate pride a bust of his grandfather erected in the library gardens. He said that there was hardly any volume, including the bound volumes of newspapers, which has not been used at least once in his period—Triumph for the Second Law!

143 Pamphlet Collection

The Librarian has made an exhaustive collection of pamphlets, prospectuses, handbills and catalogues etc. They are all arranged chronologically in pamphlet cases. Like the Civil War Pamphlet Collection of the British Museum Library, this will be excellent source material for reconstructing the life of this period.

144 A Queer Manuscript

The biggest manuscript I had ever seen is the one I found in this library. Its leaves are made of donkey's skin. The skin of 200 asses had gone to make it. It is a huge book of about 2,000 pages. Each page is $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

by 1½ ft. It is all mostly scriptural and theological. The page which is usually thrown open has the figure of a devil. It appears that children enjoy this picture. The library sells post-cards with this picture on them.

15 NORWAY: MECHANICAL REPRODUCTION OF CATALOGUE CARDS

The University Library of Oslo is also the Royal Library or the National Central Library. It has most of the features of similar libraries in the other Scandinavian countries. It has a small collection of Tibetan manuscripts. I have brought a list of them and I shall be glad to furnish copies of it to scholars who are interested in them. The Bureau of International Exchange of this library is more than 50 years old. Much of its work has been mechanised. There is a composing machine which embosses on a metal plate the address of the party in exchange relation. On the address-plate is also embossed the distinguishing numbers of the periodicals which should be sent in exchange. When a periodical, say No. 8, has to be sent out, all the 1,100 address plates in stock are fed to the printing machine which is set to pick out those plates which have No. 8 embossed on them. It then picks out the correct plates and prints them on address slips. The cost of a plate is less than three annas. The composing machine costs about Rs. 6,000 and the printing machine Rs. 12,000. It was originally designed in Germany and was called Adrena. American machines have now improved on this.

This machine is also used to print catalogue cards. The process slip contains the draft main entry and mentions the number of cards required for use as added entries on unit-card basis. The proof is printed on its back. After approval, the necessary number of cards is struck off from the embossed catalogue plate. A slip is also printed for the binding section. With that slip, the book first goes to the binding section. The process

slips and the catalogue plates are filed by accession numbers. They are preserved for 15 years, so that extra cards may be printed whenever necessary. To print catalogue cards for 10,000 volumes and to address 35,000 exchange packets in a year, they have only a staff of two. This staff attends also to microfilm and photostat work.

Most of the learned periodicals get a subsidy from Government and give about 100 copies for international exchange.

16 GREAT BRITAIN—ON THE EVE OF MODERNISATION

An old assistant who remembered my first visit in 1924 made my study of the huge British Museum Library quite easy. Somehow he seems to have sensed that I had come to study the changes in the organisation and equipment made after my visit in 1924. He showed me in half a day all the new features. The chief of them is the introduction of the electrical haul for books. A discussion with the senior members made me infer that this ancient giant of a library is on the eve of modernisation even in its library technique. The adoption of a modern system of classification and the publication of national bibliography as a periodical which can be cumulated from time to time are some of the chief points under consideration. They are also exploring the possibility of becoming the centre for co-operative classification and cataloguing.

The expeditious way in which it was possible for me to spot out and study the new features of the British Museum Library has been observed by another overseas visitor, Dr. Erika Landsburg, Director of the School of Library Science, Cologne. The following reference which she has made to this in her account of her library tour in Great Britain entitled *Bericht über meine England reise 18 juni bis 3 August 1948*, makes amusing reading:—

"On several occasions I followed a turbaned Indian (without knowing who he was) who was so enthusiastic and so

much at home in the British Museum and who was taken round with marked attention. Finally I met this remarkable man again at Leyton with Mr. Sydney and learned that he was Prof. Ranganathan, the President of the Indian Library Association and the founder of the Library School at Madras. The conversation of these two men over the aims and activities of our profession was worth listening to and made a deep impression on me in this tour. When I took leave of Ranganathan finally, he requested that I should send him the syllabus of our school and said that he would send us his. I felt confirmed that the communion of spiritual life binds together all humanity. I felt happy to hear him say that we the defeated and depressed people of Germany, still raised a small but audible note in human choir and carried, however modestly, a message to the library world. What this world-renowned librarian is attempting to do in India makes us full of strength and high hope to her people. He has been raising quite a new library spirit in that ancient land. When an English librarian told me "Ranganathan is 30 years in advance", it made me feel strongly that we should follow that Indian. We should also have a thirty-year programme and for it build up a staff of younger men as pioneers."

17 UNITED STATES—A VETERAN AMONG NATIONAL CENTRAL LIBRARIES

171 National in Collection

The Library of Congress of the United States is its National Central Library. This is the one library of its kind which has put forth the greatest number of activities possible in a National Central Library. Like all other National Central Libraries, it houses the copyright library of the nation. It makes an exhaustive collection of all reading materials on and by any citizen of the nation and published on or in the country. It seeks to secure and preserve all worthwhile books published in any part of the world so that the nation may have within its holding everything of value published anywhere in the world. To this end it sends out a member of the staff periodically to the different countries to collect their publications. The result is amazing. I found in its legal section a very nearly exhaustive collec-

tion of the legal publications of India. There is no place in India where they can all be found. The collection of atlases is again amazingly complete.

172 Central Classification and Cataloguing

This was perhaps the first National Central Library to organise Central Classification and Cataloguing. A large army of cataloguers trace out all needed bibliographical data by scanning every possible source of published information and in the last resort by correspondence with the publishers and the authors themselves. I was amused to find that this staff had, for example, followed such trivial details as political decorations, and academic honours associated with my name, had made dated entries of them in the source slip maintained for my name and carried them out in all the catalogue cards of all the earlier books as well! Such a bibliographical thoroughness would involve waste if each library attempts it independently. It is of use, however, if a single library of a nation takes the responsibility for it and shares the result with all the others. It is obvious that the National Central Library is most appropriately that single library. Apart from thoroughness, the national economy effected by the supply of printed catalogue cards from the national centre is indeed immense. The battle over classification can be by-passed by printing on the catalogue card the class numbers according to more than one scheme. And that is what the Library of Congress does.

173 Documentation Service

The Library of Congress was also the first among National Central Libraries to prepare exhaustive bibliographies in anticipation or on demand. This work was taken up by it to discharge its duties as the library of the National Legislature. Whatever the accident which led to the practice, it is now known to be of immense value to the nation and to imply considerable

national economy and efficiency in reference service. It was a delight to walk through the publication section of this library. Its stack-room is as big as that of the ground-floor of the stack-room of the Madras University Library.

174 Organisation

As the Library of Congress has got a size and an organisation comparable to what the National Central Library of a vast country like India is likely to develop into, I am adding some details about the organisation of its work.

The Library of Congress was established by the addition, on 24th April 1800, of a fifth section to the "Act to make provision for the removal and accommodation of the Government of the United States".

The new administrative lay-out brought into force in 1946 is very closely along the lines laid down in our *Library administration* (1935).

1741 National Librarian

The Librarian of Congress is the principal administrative officer with authority and responsibility for making rules and regulations. He is aided in his administration by (1) the Chief Assistant Librarian, (2) the Directors of the Departments designated: (1) the Register of Copyrights, (2) Acquisitions, (3) Processing, (4) Reference and (5) Administrative Services. As Parliamentary Librarian he is also aided by the Law Librarian and the Director of Legislative Reference Service.

1742 Chief Assistant Librarian

The Chief Assistant Librarian acts as Librarian of Congress during his absence. He aids the Librarian in the administration of all the Departments. He is also responsible for the immediate direction of:

- (1) the Shelf-Section;
- (2) the Library for the Blind;
- (3) Motion Picture Projection; and
- (4) the Information and Publications Section.

1743 Copyright

The officers of the Copyright Department are the Register of Copyrights and an Associate and Assistant Register of Copyrights assisted by a legal staff. The work of this Department is governed by the Copyright Act. This Department registers copyright claims upon compliance with the provisions of the Act including the filing of application for registration, the deposit of copies and the payment of the fee and issues a certificate of registration. It also registers transfers of copyright and mechanical reproductions of musical composition. It publishes the *Catalogue of copyright entries* and the *Decisions of the United States Courts involving copyright*. The copyright deposits are retained in the library as provided in the Act. When authorised by a court or permitted by the copyright owner, copies of deposits are made. To help decisions on copyright claims, the Department makes a search of records, indexes and deposits on payment of prescribed fees.

1744 Acquisition

The Department of Acquisition has:

- (1) A Book Selection Division;
- (2) Periodical Publications Division;
- (3) Order Division; and
- (4) Exchange and Gift Division;

Book selection is initiated by:

- (1) The heads of these Divisions;
- (2) The subject specialists in the Reference Department;
- (3) The Law Department; and
- (4) The other units of the Library.

17441 *Periodical Publications, Exchanges and Gifts*

The Periodical Publications Division deals with all the materials indicated by its name except non-government newspapers. The Exchange and Gift Division takes care also of the administration of the Brussels Convention and other treaties and produces the *Monthly Checklist of State publications*.

1745 *Technical Work*

The Processing Department has charge of classifying, cataloguing and binding the materials added to the Library of Congress and of maintaining a union catalogue of research materials in all libraries in the country. There is a bindery in the library, which is regarded as a Branch of the Government Printing Office. The Catalogue Division not only catalogues the collection of the library but also edits the catalogue entries supplied by other libraries for co-operative cataloguing. There is a Card Division in charge of the distribution and sale of the catalogue cards printed by the library and other related publications.

1746 *Circulation*

Open access permit may be had by application. Loan privilege may be secured by application by individuals and institutions in and near the District of Columbia. Inter-library loan is possible for libraries outside the District of Columbia. Embossed books and talking-book records are lent to the blind. Prints from photographic negatives and photostat copies can be had on payment. There is a special reading room for the use of micro-films. General books can be taken, with permission, to special reading rooms for use along with special materials.

1747 *Reference Service*

The Reference Department maintains the collections of the Library (other than Law) and renders

reference service for the Congress, the Federal Agencies and the general public. The picking out and the replacing of reading materials, usually assigned to the Shelf-Section, is done by the Circulation Division. There is a Serials Division to serve loose parts of periodicals, instalment-books and serials prior to completion of volume and accessioning. There are separate Divisions for the maintenance, documentation and reference service for special subjects or classes of materials like:

- (1) General Bibliography;
- (2) Aeronautics;
- (3) Music;
- (4) Hispanic;
- (5) Orientalia;
- (6) Maps;
- (7) Prints and Photographs;
- (8) Rare Books; and
- (9) Manuscripts.

1748 *Administration*

The Department of Administrative Service consists of Divisions in charge of:

- (1) Personnel;
- (2) Buildings and Grounds;
- (3) Photoduplication Service;
- (4) Supplies and Services;
- (5) Statistics;
- (6) Disbursement; and
- (7) Accounts.

CHAPTER 2

CITY LIBRARY SYSTEM

21 FRANCE: CENTRALISATION

The Public Libraries of the cities of France are all under the direction of the National Librarian who is ex-officio Director of Libraries. Most of them are maintained by the Local Bodies and receive aid from the Government. Till 1944, the Director of Education assisted by the Bureau of Education—a purely administrative body with no capacity for technical direction—was in charge of the library system of the country. In response to a persistent demand from the library profession for a Department of Libraries, Act 18 of 1945 as amended in 1947 has made the National Librarian *ex-officio* Director of Libraries and placed him directly under the Minister of Education. The library systems of 42 major municipalities are administered nationally. About 400 other municipal libraries belong to the respective municipalities but are under the direction of the Inspector of Libraries three of whom share them between themselves. The power of fixing the grants to the municipal libraries is vested in them. They exercise control over the technical work of university libraries also. They are usually recruited from the national cadre of librarians who man the libraries of the major municipalities. The same cadre carries also the librarians who work the 17 Rural Library Systems serving localities whose population is less than 15,000. There is a National Library Committee to watch the progress of library development and improve library technique.

22 HOLLAND: INDEPENDENT SYSTEM

Holland is at the other extreme. Its city libraries are independent not only of the Government but also of the Local Bodies. The librarian of the Public Library at the Hague explained this extreme form by saying that the libraries would be otherwise involved in

national and local politics and could not maintain their independence. They depend for their finance on subscriptions from readers. This naturally keeps out many from the service of the library. Although it was argued by the Dutch librarians that the subscription was very low, it is a matter of experience that intellectual service, such as library service is, will not be sought or paid for voluntarily by even half the population. On the contrary, even when there is no direct payment, public libraries have to adopt many persuasive measures to make the masses accept their service. The finance needed for Library Service is best collected as rates and taxes and not at the time of service or in proportion to it. As for being involved in politics, it is after all the very local public who send up persons to local bodies who will have to send up persons to library committees whether the library is rate-supported or subscription-supported. No *ad hoc* body can escape the incidence of politics if it is rampant in the locality, in the same measure as its omnibus Local Body.

23 DENMARK: CO-ORDINATION

In Denmark, the city library system is rate-supported; it allows open access; it has all the recognised forms of service like children's service, lecture service and so on. At the service level, all the city library systems are well co-ordinated and there is liberal inter-library loan. There is government supervision through library inspectors.

The public library of Frederiksberg is a model one. Its librarian is a worker of unusual tenacity. He had collaborated with an architect and produced excellent designs for library buildings. His library was the first to be built according to his design and other public libraries are following its model. The light-effect in the lending department and the children's department is most enchanting. He has adopted the same pleasing colour for the furniture as the one used for the upright

partitions of the reading room tables in the Madras University Library.

The number of volumes exceeds 200,000. They are kept in three sequences: About 80,000 in the open-access room—these are most in demand; about 40,000 in the stay-by corridors on the longer sides of the open-access room—these are next in order of demand; and the rest in the basement. It works splendidly with considerable economy in the movement of the staff and the readers. And yet what a fuss the idlers make in India when two sequences are formed, as a first step in rationalisation!

24 SWEDEN

241 Active Inspectorate of Libraries

In Sweden, the Inspectorate of Libraries is very active and efficient in enforcing standards. It is centred in the State Bureau for Public Libraries. There is a graded grant-in-aid system by which the poorer Local Bodies get a higher percentage of Government grant. The system of annual return is very well thought out. It was a sight to see the long runs of uniformly bound annual returns of each of the individual library systems of the land. At the time I visited the country, a Committee on the revision of the Library Law was just completing its labour. It was expected that the grants to libraries would be increased and that a more vigorous drive to make the people accept library service would be launched.

242 Principle of Parallel Movement

The public library of Stockholm has many branches. The Central Library is a huge one with a large daily turn-over. The seasonal variations in the subjects studied are very pronounced—naturally dependent on the great amplitude in the climatic variations caused by the changes in the declination of the sun. The

Stockholm Public Library uses what I have described in the *Library administration* as the "Principle of Parallel Movement" to a remarkable extent to meet this fluctuation: In each season there is a thorough exchange of books between the active collection in the rooms open to the public and the inactive collection consigned to the basement. This is facilitated and controlled by a parallel shift in the shelf-cards. There is a further improvement to help the public. In each special reading room there is a catalogue cabinet containing the cards of the books in that room. For the books in the same subjects, housed in the basement, the book cards are kept in a nearby cabinet. If any of the books shown in the catalogue could not be found on the shelf and if its book-card is not found in the nearby cabinet, it is inferred that the book is on loan. If the book-card is found, the book is brought up from the basement.

The children's reading room is the most charming one I have ever seen—a circular room with fine mural paintings, a stage, and in short with a real atmosphere.

243 Labour Union Libraries

In addition to the public libraries maintained by Local Bodies, many small libraries are maintained by the several Labour Unions. These maintain what are known as study circles. The normal strength of a study circle is about 30 members. These study circles form a speciality of Sweden. The demand arose spontaneously from the people themselves at the time of the World War II. During the after-work relaxation hours in the early part of the night, people assemble in small groups to study problems co-operatively. Each circle elects its own leader and decides its own course of study. Occasionally when a reading circle is unable to find a competent leader from among its members, the Department of Libraries lends the services of a leader. The spontaneity and voluntariness of intellectual pursuit by the

adults in the lower quartiles make the following data of particular value in determining the regions of the field of knowledge in which their libraries have to enrich themselves:—

Subject	No. of Reading circles	Percentage
Trade Unionism ...	1,677	17
Political Science, Local Government and Parliamentary Procedure ...	1,560	16
English ...	1,158	12
Music ...	821	8
Arithmetic ...	522	5
Swedish ...	397	4
Book-keeping ...	286	3
Amateur Theatricals ...	275	3
Socialism ...	158	2
Other Literature ...	149	2
Other subjects (Economics, Hygiene, Public Speaking, Syndicalism, Philosophy, Psychology, History, International Affairs, Communism) ...		28

The summer schools held at Brunnsrick Folk High School and attended by 450 workers every year forms the chief source of inspiration for the general work of these study circles and of their library activity in particular.

Each study circle gets a money grant to buy the book-collection needed for its course of study as a supplement to what it can borrow from the Public Library. In 1948, there were as many as 20,000 such study circles with small libraries of their own. There is a Central Workers' Institute at Stockholm to which these study circles are affiliated. The Central Institute prepares bibliographies, sets model courses of study and generally seeks to maintain the tone of the study circles at a high level.

25 NORWAY

251 Study Circles

The study circles of Norway were originally founded by teetotallers about 1900. Before the Second World

War the Workers' Educational Association revived them. The Young Peoples' Associations also formed similar circles. From 1937 the State has been giving grants to them. There was a set-back to the movement during the period of German occupation. They have revived since 1945. Women's Associations also are establishing study circles. Some federate themselves and have a Joint Board. The Director of Libraries is a member of this Board. The Government grant is still very small. It is only about Rs. 75,000 for year as against Rs. 750,000 given by Sweden. Some of the study circles get only about Rs. 40 for their libraries. But the Department of Libraries is making every effort to have these adult educational agencies closely linked up with public libraries. The subjects which are most popular among the study circles are : (1) Organisation-technique, (2) Local Government and (3) State Government. They also take up occupational subjects. The late appearance of occupational subjects is due to the fact that books came to be written on arts and crafts only during the last twenty-five years. The first few books were translations from English.

252 Inspectorate

There are 16 Library Inspectors to look after the standard of about 1,000 public libraries and 5,000 school libraries. These inspectors have the same status as librarians of small towns. They have also to do library propaganda. The Director of Libraries corresponds directly with the Ministry of Education. The Annual Report is usually presented to the Library Association by the Director. Occasionally the Association passes resolutions on it; but it is "usually approved by the clap of hands". The Association has about 500 members. It publishes technical pamphlets. The Director publishes classified lists of publications periodically.

26 GREAT BRITAIN: RATIONALISATION

There was evidence of considerable rationalisation in the city library systems of Great Britain since my last visit a quarter of a century ago.

261 Re-organisation

Several libraries like those of Edinburgh, Newcastle, Leeds, Manchester, and so on are replacing the old organisation into lending and reference libraries by what they call the Departmental System. There are departments for special subjects like Music, other Fine Arts, Commerce and Technology, which provide for lending as well as reference service. The staff specialise in subjects, do considerable documentation work and render reference service of a high order on account of the opportunity which the system provides for subject-specialisation. The old lending department is being progressively restricted to recreative books. This departmental organisation is making the public library a true agency for advanced adult education and not merely for recreative reading. Some of the general directories and other ready reference books are kept in the General Lending Department so that those who come to borrow recreative books may look up their reference without the need to go to another department.

262 Branch Libraries

The number of branch libraries has increased appreciably almost in every city. They have all become popular centres of public resort. People of all ages—from childhood to old age—drop into the library steadily throughout the day. Some branches provide also indoor games. The branch librarians are encouraged to take initiative in publicity methods and reference service. Indeed there is a healthy atmosphere of ownership in many of the branches—the sense of ownership being shared as much by the public as by the staff. The atmosphere of resonance between readers and staff

and of identity of interest recalled to my mind the charming community life of my village some fifty years ago (which, alas, has totally disappeared) and the survival of it in some villages of Malabar which I witnessed, even as late as 1921. This healthy group or community personality has been wonderfully revived by the Branch Libraries becoming community centres. I am convinced that a sense of ownership and intimacy is necessary for a library to become a helpful community centre. This cannot be had in huge central libraries. In these, division of work has to be carried to such an extreme extent that all the artistic element, possible only in holistic work, is lost. The relation between the reader and the staff also becomes too impersonal and mechanical. Rapid movement from huge central libraries to compact branch libraries and *vice versa* confirmed me in the view that while there is much to be gained by the centralisation of all the impersonal work connected with books—like purchase, classification, cataloguing, preparation and binding—the service-points should be small and widely scattered in a city. The area of service of a branch library should be reduced to the point where the city-alooofness among the residents themselves and on the part of the staff disappears and a village-intimacy prevails. In the future development of India, this element must be borne in mind. The library approach is only one of the many approaches to this important human problem. Gigantic cities inimical to intimate community-life should be avoided from the point of view of many other problems also in public relationship. The way in which the electrical form of power lends itself to transmission makes humanisation of the location of industries possible. Advantage must be taken of this to keep the clustering of density points of population under control, to prevent them from overgrowth or merger, and to provide branch libraries in each cluster point as community centres. The marked contrast in the atmosphere and composure of small

branch libraries and of gigantic central libraries pressed me into this line of reflection almost involuntarily.

263 Travelling Library

Manchester made library history in September last when I was there by introducing travelling library service for the scattered outskirts of the city. A condemned motor bus of the City Corporation was taken over by the Library Department and it was fitted with a beautiful body with book-shelves and an issue-counter. It could take about 2,000 books. There is a central gangway giving open access to books. There is strip-lighting from the ceiling. The book-van is pulled up at convenient spots where it is connected with switches on the walls of neighbouring buildings. The whole of the inside is thus beautifully lighted. Two assistants work in it. Enrolment of members, charging and discharging of books, and reference service go on vigorously for a few hours, as if it were a stationary branch library. The van visits the spot once in a week. The readers expressed supreme satisfaction with this new facility.

In February last, when I happened to visit Ahmedabad, I was delighted to find a similar travelling library service established by its public library. Of course, they had thought about it quite independently.

2631 *Library for the Sick and the Old*

Several public libraries have now begun to serve hospitals and invalids' homes. A special staff with additional training carry books to these places and serve them. There is usually a room reserved in the hospitals to keep library books. A noiseless book-trolley presents a large assortment of books at each bed for selection. The Health Department of the Local Body gives a special grant to the Library Department to meet the cost of this service.

264 Administration

On the administrative side, many libraries have developed a high sense of value and are eliminating

many purposeless Victorian practices. For example, book-selection is transferred *de facto* to the librarian. They have given up elaborate accessioning. The inclusive accession numbers and the total cost alone are entered for each bill. Out of date, worn-out and dead books are freely discarded. Time is not wasted on the classification and cataloguing of materials which are obviously of temporary value, important though they may be at the moment. In a word, the librarian is trusted and given full freedom to rationalise his work and processes without any obstruction. There is no sign of political interference. What a contrast to the narrow antediluvian outlook of the all-too-few libraries in India where political hatred, selfishness and ignorance combine knowingly or unknowingly to make a fetish of trivialities, kill proper library outlook and now and again set back library progress by several years—this in spite of most of the active libraries in the land happening to be placed to-day in universities, which should be seats of enlightenment!

265 Experiment in Public Catalogue

The Middlesex Library System, which is really urban though technically a county library system, is making bold experiments in regard to the public catalogue. It does not provide a catalogue for public use. Unimpeded open access and adequate reference service make the catalogue an unwanted barrier in the case of the books actually on the shelves. For books not on the shelves, published trade-bibliographies give the necessary information. If a reader picks up a title from it and asks for it, but it is not on the shelf, the library checks up the charged tray and if it is found charged, he is told about the date on which it is expected to come back to the library. If it is not charged, the central library is asked by phone to rush it to the branch concerned either from its shelf or from whichever branch has it or by purchasing a copy from the market or by inter-library loan if its potential use is likely to be too small

for the purchase of a copy. I had a full discussion with the library staff about this. I am told that it works quite well and in fact even to a better satisfaction of the public.

266 Barriers

Many libraries, particularly in London and Middlesex, have gone further in the direction of open access. They have given up wicket-gates and barriers of all kinds. At the Westminster Library, whose new Central Lending Library at 4 Charing Cross Road was opened when I was there on 15 July, the charging and discharging counters have all been made to recede so much into the background that a reader walks into the library through a spacious, well-lit, entrance corridor, unless he has to charge or discharge a book in which case he has to go to a counter to the left of the corridor. The Americans have been doing it for several years. Even cautious, conservative England has now found wisdom and ultimate national economy and advantage in such a whole-sale pull-down of barriers of all kinds.

267 Conscience Box

Middlesex has taken another bold step. It has given up keeping an account of the overdue charges for late return of books by readers. Neither does it grant receipt, nor does it "collect" the amount in the usual way. The counter has a box like the polling box or the *Undi* in the temples of South India. Any reader who returns books after the due date drops the necessary coins into the box. No coercion! Not even a reminder!! Not even any notice of it!!! I gave it the name "Conscience Box" and the librarians were very pleased with that phrase. Surely in the Madras University Library, the cost of collecting one anna per volume was often greater than that amount—on account of the multifarious accounting apparatus and an audit which had been trained to strain at a gnat. The authorities

and the auditors made such a fetish of the affair. They looked upon it as revenue! Or as an absolute procedural matter which had an overwhelming value of its own!!

I found this "Conscience Box" working splendidly in the trams and buses of New York. No conductor! No tickets!! A mere voluntary dropping of coin into the *Undi* kept near the driver!!!

268 Economy in Issue Apparatus

I saw two different improvements in the issue apparatus in two different libraries. Middlesex made the book-card in the form of a pocket of manilla paper and the reader's ticket in the form of a card which goes into that pocket. I found by observation that this makes a saving of 40 per cent in the charging time, as the two hands can work simultaneously, the right-hand stamping the due-date on the date slip and the left-hand inserting the reader's ticket into the book-card and pulling out the whole for charging. Leeds has dispensed with a separate book-pocket and folded the lower edge of the date label in the form of a pocket to receive the book-card. This saves the cost of the book-pocket and the labour of fixing it. These two improvements can be effected together and then the economy will be even greater.

CHAPTER 3

RURAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

31 DENMARK—EFFECT OF FOLK HIGH SCHOOLS

The Swedish librarians say that they are still in the pioneer period while they describe Denmark as having books integrated into its cultural life. One of the forces responsible for this integration has been the folk high-school system. In a typical folk high-school which I visited, about 150 students reside. It is made up of girls during the three summer months and of boys during the six winter months. They are between 18 and 24 years. After leaving school at 14, they work for a few years and then come up to a folk high-school for intellectual re-winding and cultural step-up. The 30 per cent of the adolescents, who are above the bottom 20 per cent of imbeciles and below the top 50 per cent who have an innate intellectual urge, are mentally re-conditioned by the folk high-schools and enabled to look after their further self-education with the help of the free library service which reaches every village.

I visited a typical village library in the parish of Karlebo, whose population is only 2,000. One of the rooms in the parish school, houses the library. The headmaster and his wife look after it. It has about 2,000 volumes. About 60 books are added each year. The travelling library of the district calls six times in a year for exchange of books. The annual issue is 5,000—5,000 for a population of 2,000. The library is kept open on Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. and on Fridays from 5-30 to 7-30 p.m. The classification and cataloguing have all been done centrally. The librarian has only to advise readers and look after the issue work. The catalogue is in cards. The Director and the Inspectors of Libraries co-ordinate the work of the rural library system as a whole.

32 SWEDEN—RURAL CENTRAL LIBRARY

It has been my theoretical conjecture that nothing will be gained by amalgamating a Rural Central Library with the City Central Library of the place where it is located. My Library Development Plan for our country has proceeded on this assumption. I found a practical demonstration of it at Upsala. Here an attempt had been made to make the urban public library function also as the Central Library for the surrounding rural area. But they have found it necessary to keep the stock distinct. The staff also has to be kept distinct. The only saving is in the salary of the watchman who is shared by both the urban and the rural wings.

Books are sent out in boxes. Each box is sent out with about 50 books and three copies of the list of books sent. One comes back immediately as receipt. The second has columns for statistics of issue against each item and is returned with the books. The third copy is retained for parish use. A fourth copy is retained at the Central Library as an office copy and filed in a find-me-folder under the name of the parish, so that it may be used to prevent sending the same book over again to the same parish. Apart from this, the book-card of each book sent out is filed, as in ordinary loan, in a charged tray by due dates and call numbers. This mechanises the location of the books sent out and forms the basis for classified statistics.

Each book is provided with two book-cards. When it goes out to a parish, it carries with itself its second book-card which the parish uses for its own charging work.

There is a map with tags pinned to the parishes. The colour scheme of the tags shows which parish has a permanent collection and several other features.

The State Bureau of Public Libraries supervises and co-ordinates the 24 county library systems through a staff of 3 officers and 7 assistants:

33 ENGLAND

The rural library system of England has made considerable progress and become quite mature during the twenty-five years which had elapsed since my last visit. Practically every county has now established its rural library system. They range in type from the Middlesex system at one extreme, which consists of a chain of urban libraries and is a rural system only in the legal sense, to the Hereford System at the other extreme, which is typically rural and has to serve a community scattered over a difficult terrain. An amusing fact: These two extreme ends of the county library spectrum are in charge of a father and son respectively! Both the county library systems are being developed along bold and rational lines. Most of the county library systems have emerged or are emerging from the primitive stage of sending out boxes of books—and have begun to take an assorted collection of about 2,000 volumes in a library-van down to the villages. Some have also established several branch libraries in the bigger villages and smaller towns in their area.

331 Typical County Library System

Derbyshire is typical of this advanced type. It is finding service from one county-centre expensive and has therefore established regional centres in the branch libraries of centrally situated parishes. I was very much impressed by the high level of reading which has been induced by its service. When I was in the library-van which had pulled up at a roadside to serve the neighbouring villages, it was a sight to see crowds of people walking into the van for exchange of books. Heavy books in subjects like poetry, anthropology and animal husbandry were exchanged in large number—and not merely fiction, music and travel. The orderliness and quick despatch of business were impressive.

332 Branch Libraries

The branch libraries were like beehives with a throng of people at all hours. The proportion of children in most of the libraries was remarkable. By engaging myself in conversation with the children, I found how well-informed and widely interested they were. They were all quite familiar with classified arrangement and card catalogue. When I asked some children to pick out for me some books on butterflies and India, not finding any in the children's collections, they quietly walked into the adult section and brought out the appropriate books without any help from others. This is very significant. Useful folders and bulletins are freely distributed as appetisers.

333 Typical Branch Library

Here is a typical picture of the result of entrusting the task of promoting the perpetual self-education of one and all to the library system and giving the library profession full freedom to do their job as well as they could, without interference from others under the pretext of administrative expediency. Bakewell is one of the little parishes I visited. Population, 3,000; population of the neighbouring villages which are also served, 7,000. Membership in Bakewell parish, 100 per cent. Library, in a single room. Shelf-capacity, 8,000 volumes. Average daily issue, 600. Maximum daily issue, 1,200. Annual issue, 160,000 volumes.

334 Informed Man-Power

All this development has happened within a span of twenty years. The benefits of this will become visible in the course of the next generation. If this agency of culture and self-education continues to function at this rate, the enlightenment and efficiency of England will pervade throughout the entire community and step up to a marvellous level. There is no doubt that this is a true and effective means of the cultivation

of the mental resources of a nation as a necessary prior step in the cultivation of its material and spiritual resources. When will the statesmen in India realise the importance of this? When will our Economy Committees develop a proper sense of values? When will they distinguish between what gives quick but ephemeral political returns to the few money or power-grubs and what is beneficial in the long run to the people at large? When will they, for example, give up tying down libraries to archaeological museums and dropping them together into the depths of the future leaving the next generation to pick them up and develop them if they so wished. Little do they realise that the world has now reached a stage when a nation which pushes library provision aside to save its cost for other purposes is like one whom the common man describes as pennywise and poundfoolish. The fool who forgoes the pound to save the penny harms himself and none else. Perhaps he feeds the sense of humour in the onlookers. But if the government of a nation behaves in that way in the twentieth century, it is sowing the seed for national tragedy. Indeed, I have grave misgivings that the neglect on the part of the first government of free India of the steady and sure means of cultivating the human resources, and their playing with social education and university education more at the verbal and publicity level, or at best leaving library provision to depend essentially on local private enterprise and not on public funds and legislative provision, will induce insolvency in informed manpower so rapidly that a crash will come within the next ten years. God forbid!

335 A Diagnosis

I quite realise that this short-sightedness on the part of the people in power is traceable to their never having enjoyed or seen or even heard of a good library service. They have begun to exercise power after the lapse of

several centuries. They have had no chance to build up a proper scale of values. It is especially true that novices of this kind will be carried away by what is *now* and what will be in the *next* minute only. They will be blind to the danger lurking in the corner as a result of mass-ignorance. Unfortunately even when they go to developed countries like England and America, they come back with an urge to imitate their splendour, adopt their policy as mere slogans and introduce their institutions as mere ritual appendages of the State. This is my diagnosis of the library apathy in India.

It is not my envy of the American, the English and the European people—from the highest to the lowest—whose perpetual self-education is so amply provided for by their nation-wide grid of live libraries—which is responsible for this train of thought. It is only the result of my concern that a splendid opportunity and public enthusiasm for the cultivation of our human resources, caused by the culmination of Mahatma Gandhi's life-long endeavour in our political independence, is let go unharnessed by those who have got into power.

CHAPTER 4

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

41 DENMARK

The new library building of the Science Faculty of the University of Copenhagen is a lovely one. The stack-room is in eight tiers. The roof of the tiers is, however, too low to put up bay-guides. This is continued because the library does not allow open-access. The stack-room is air-conditioned. Filtered air is pumped into four tiers and drawn out of the other four. The pressure in the stack-room is kept higher than that of the atmosphere so that unfiltered air may not enter. There is a lock-system at the entrance; there are two doors separated by 5 feet; the two doors are opened and closed automatically by an electrical switch within half a minute of each other. Though the capital cost of this is much, the recurring cost is said to be less than 8 annas for a day of 24 hours.

The Periodicals Section is beautifully organised. I am now convinced that the visible index system will save much time in the case of the **Registration Cards**. Each tray can hold 75 cards and needs only an overall height of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. But they have not adopted the Check Cards. This leads to neglect of prompt reminders for the periodicals not arriving in time. The metallic coloured tag-system in use is not sufficiently effective. There are three assistants and one chief. Every periodical is registered within one hour of its receipt, stamped with the date of receipt and the university stamp, marked its location, and released. About 3,000 periodicals are taken. Of these only 500 are sent to the display table. About 500 go to the departments and the rest are sent direct to the shelf—much to the disappointment of the Third Law of Library Science.

The chief of the section personally documents all the medical periodicals. He writes up a slip for each

article. When a sufficient number accumulates and the printer who works with a multigraph machine is free, the slips are classified and sent for printing. The proof is corrected with the original periodical itself. The multigraph copies of the slips are distributed to the departments and are also used for analytical entries on the principle of the unit-card system. There is a binding department and the completed volumes are bound promptly. The binding is poor. There is no split-board or French joint or tight-back. Loose numbers are lent for a week. It is remarkable that all work is rounded off each day without leaving even one periodical in suspense.

The Dentistry Department which gets about 100 periodicals by exchange leaves them all to be handled and housed by the Central Library. Some departments have their periodicals housed with themselves, while some prefer to do themselves even the routine administrative work.

At lunch time, we had a long discussion about library and cultural matters. The chief librarian said that he was promoting a series on Library Science. He took a consent from me to write two books for the series on the *Philosophy of library classification* and on the *Philosophy of librarianship*.

42 SWEDEN

Each department in the Upsala University is autonomous in library matters. It is only the personal relation between the heads of departments and the librarian which effects any co-ordination at all. The departments are, however, very exclusive. Some even refuse to give the librarian a list of what they get, lest its inclusion in the librarian's annual accession-catalogue should make the others ask for the use of their collection. They have no good classification scheme. Even the catalogue code is out-of-date. The catalogue cards also are out-of-date in size etc. They are trying to

change over. The head of the catalogue section was a mathematics man. He had known Mitagleffer, Nielson and Freedholm and had done some work in the Theory of Numbers.

The head of the Periodicals and Exchange Section is of progressive outlook. He knows all our books. He said that our books and methods often come up for discussion at the meetings of their staff-association.

43 GREAT BRITAIN

There is a great variation in the standard of organisation of the University Libraries of Great Britain. Glasgow is still following nineteenth century methods. London has a fine new building with an imposing stack-tower which has become a land-mark in Bloomsbury Square. It has many reading-rooms. The proportion of Indian readers and especially of Indian ladies appeared to be very high in them. This library has a huge extension-wing supplying dozens of copies of prescribed books to University Extension Classes. I don't see what can be gained by attaching this function to a University Library. Both the Bodleian and the Cambridge University Libraries have new buildings. The new library building of the Leeds University has unfortunately been designed on a circular pattern and the library is already suffering from the rigidity of such a design. In Edinburgh full freedom to organise the library according to the findings of Library Science does not yet appear to have been given by the professorial Library Committee.

431 An Anecdote of 1925

I remembered what had happened when I visited the Edinburgh University in 1925. I learned from the then librarian that the Chairman of the Library Committee would not allow classified arrangement of books. Later in the day, I called on my professor's professor—a brilliant mathematician. He began asking me why I deserted mathematics and remarked that there was

nothing serious to learn in Library Science or do in libraries. Although I was then only learning my ropes, as it were, my youthful enthusiasm for my new love made me protest against those remarks and I said that the professors of the University were too self-willed to allow librarians either to do their best for them or to demonstrate the potentialities of Library Science. When he asked for evidence, I mentioned the opposition to classification in his University. The learned professor said that classification of knowledge was impracticable and that he himself was the Chairman mentioned by the librarian. I could only assert that the profession had made it possible. I had not then sensed facet and phase-analysis and chain-procedure which would have been a convincing proof to a man of that brilliance. Being a seasoned scientist he saw the futility of each side dogmatising diametrically opposite propositions. Finding that there was no means of an *a priori* examination of the issue, he turned on to *reductio ad absurdum* and cited the notorious placing of Sylvester's paper on Algebra, entitled *Law of motion*, in Dynamics, by the compiler of the Royal Society's *Index*. I met it easily, saying that it merely proved one of the elementary negative postulates of classification *viz.* Don't classify by the title. Then he challenged how an encyclopaedic book like Whittaker's *Modern analysis* could be classified. I mentioned the invoking of the aid of the catalogue to provide subject-analyticals. After a long give and take like this, he finally agreed that there was scope for some work and for a proper discipline being developed.

432 An Anecdote of 1939

In 1939 Providence took the horrid shape of political persecution and made me print, against my wish and conviction, a classified catalogue of my library. The mathematical collection was an excellent one and its catalogue was brought out as the first volume. I sent a copy of it to this professor and he wrote conceding

that the possibility of classification had been demonstrated. These printed catalogues went a long way to show many people the value of close classification. I got confirmed in my conviction that there is no absolute evil in the world. At the moment I was forced to print the catalogue, I felt hurt since the immediate context disclosed only the tyrannical motive of the authority to force me do something against my conviction in the distant hope that such unpleasant acts would make me vacate my place. I saw only the evil motive of people behind it. But in a few years, I saw in it the hand of kind Providence which chose to work through such dirty media. For these printed catalogues have gone a long way in demonstrating the fundamental contributions made by Colon Classification to classificatory technique. At any rate they are of immense help to me in developing the technique further in spite of my migration to distant places. I even feel angry with Providence for having brought in a World-War which led to the discontinuance of the printing of the catalogue, which is now handicapping me in humanities and social sciences.

433 An Anecdote of 1948—the Last Ditch

When I was in Edinburgh in the present tour, I called on the same old professor who was still youthfully energetic in spite of his having crossed the biblical three score and ten. His memory was so alert that he resumed the conversation just where we had left it in 1925. "What is that mathematical prodigy doing now?", he began. The reference was to a prodigy who was my student in the Honours classes in 1923 even when he was only twelve years old. It was his case that we were discussing last, when I met the professor in 1925. Next he himself started the subject of classification. I told him about some of my fundamental work in the subject. He said that it was all helpful in arranging entries in the catalogue or bibliography but that he would not

allow books to be arranged on the shelves in the classified order. That was the last ditch. His argument was the good old one: Classified arrangement would need interpolation of new books amidst old ones; this would mean disturbance of the position of books on shelves; this would lead to familiar books not being found in familiar places—not different from the argument of a Principal in India who insisted that arrangement of books in the college library should be such that his illiterate bearer can pick out the right book for him when he was told “go to the library and bring me the green fat book at the right end of the bottom shelf in the ninth cupboard.” All the old, old argument in favour of absolute placing. I argued that absolute placing might be alright in a private library and that relative placing alone would find every reader all his books without loss of time. Again the same old argument of a versatile genius: Any reader will know all the books in his field before he comes to the library! I said that the majority would not know and that a library, open to many and not merely to the learned few, had to arrange books for the convenience of the majority and should not presume that everybody would be equally versatile and informed. We had to fight this question to the finish, sitting in the beautiful Moghul garden in the George’s Square. As Professor Max Born dropped in, our duel had to be stopped abruptly and he finished with the remark, “Anyhow, I won’t allow classified arrangement. But, I am no longer Chairman of the Library Committee. As I have retired, I cannot prevent it any longer.”

434 Unfavourable Factors

I went into the details of this case as it proves how hard it is for the library profession to assert itself in university libraries. Tradition dies hard in universities. It is specially so in British Universities. It is all for good so far as good traditions are concerned. It is all

equally for bad when bad traditions persist. It is no reflection on the library profession when I say that the methods of work in university libraries are not yet modernised as much as in public and business libraries. This is due partly to the retarding force of tradition and partly to absence of pressure from the gifted, single-minded, senior readers whose innate urge for advanced study and research is of so compelling a nature that they help themselves under any conditions without any murmur or complaint.

435 Favourable Factors

Of late however the formation of the University and Research Libraries Branch of the Library Association is providing an agency to stimulate the re-thinking of university library practices. Here is a proof of re-thinking: I was invited to address the Birmingham Conference of this Branch on classification. I called my subject, *The Challenge of the field of knowledge*. There was a high level discussion after my talk, which filled my heart with hope. Another factor which promises well for the university libraries is the high estimate of their value in the mind of the University Grants Committee which regards that "the fullest provision for library maintenance is the primary and most vital need in the equipment of a university. An adequate library is not only the basis of all teaching and study; it is the essential condition for research, without which additions cannot be made to the sum of human knowledge"!

44 UNITED STATES

441 Modular Plan and Dry Construction

I spent half a day studying the new library building of the Princeton University, Harvey S. Eirestone Library, which was just being occupied. Its chief feature is modular planning as it is termed. In this planning, any given floor-area can, at pleasure, be fitted inter-changeably for any library purpose—stack-room, seminar room or

work-room for the staff. It can also be fitted for any new purpose which may be developed by a growing subject like Library Science.

Each unit is roughly 18 by 25 feet. We had a similar feature introduced in the stack-room and its fittings of the Madras University Library. The attempt to introduce this feature in the other parts of the building was frustrated by interference emanating from political forces of a deplorable nature. In free America, the library profession has had the freedom to think out and implement this idea unimpeded by forces foreign to the subject. The floor, wall and ceiling materials are made in units of standard dimensions and shape and are assembled, bolted or otherwise fastened and not cemented or plastered as masses. All the partitions are moveable. This is called dry construction.

Modular planning and dry construction ensure considerable freedom in the use of interior space. Variation—periodical, kaleidoscopic variation—of the over-all pattern of the library is possible so that readers are not bored by the sameness of pattern staring them in their face from month to month and from year to year. Again the Fifth Law of Library Science postulates growth not only in readers, books and staff, but also in library ideas, outlook and policy. It demands that the library building should be designed not only to provide maximum usefulness according to the present ideas about the functions of the library, but also so as to allow the same privilege for the future generations.

India is just entering into its library era. It is desirable that all antiquated ideas about monumental buildings, rotunda and the utilisation of castles of old for which no other use could be found, should be expunged from the minds of the authorities. They should give proper weight to the opinion of the progressive thinkers in the profession and base their building policy not on past traditions but on the changes in the needs which time will bring in its train.

442 Humanistic Laboratory Library

Another feature of the new Princeton University Library is the provision of graduate study-rooms with a selection of basic reading materials necessary for research, a number of seminar rooms for holding post-graduate classes under professorial guidance, browsing rooms with books on all kinds of subjects written in an entertaining style, and with furniture suited for bodily relaxation, and about 500 carrels for the private use of graduates and undergraduates. A carrel is a cubicle for an individual reader. He can lock it and no one else can enter it without his permission except the members of the staff. It has a desk-shelf, book-shelves, type-writer stand and adjustable light-points. It will be his research room in the library, located at the point of the stack-room where the books in his region of interest are housed. He can leave his notes in any sort of disarray, his periodicals or books on his private desk or a half-finished letter in his own type-writer, as he departs for class or lunch or for his home. This convenience results in the saving of much time which would otherwise be lost in again and again gathering loose ends together for the sake of safety, or in re-establishing the mood at which work was interrupted.

This ample accommodation for individual student's work-space is one of the outstanding embodiments of the principle of "Humanistic-laboratory library" as they put it.

The following data may be of interest :—

Floor area	... 300,000 sq. ft.
Volume	... 3,870,000 cubic ft.
Stack area	... 4½ acres
Book-capacity	... 1,800,000 volumes (About 20 miles of Shelving)
Seating capacity	... 1,875
Number of carrels	... 500
Cost	... Rs: 2 crores

Faculty members	...	565
Post-graduate students	...	583
Undergraduates	...	3,457
Library staff	...	91

443 Three-fold Service

The special arrangement made in the Princeton and Yale University Libraries for text-book service is of considerable interest to us. Our libraries are wronging the undergraduate and the advanced research student equally, by making no differentiation whatever either in the stacking of books or in the provision of reading rooms, and by the despicable practice in some places of completely ignoring the needs of these and turning all the attention on influential professors.

In Yale, there are three groups of book-collections and associated reading rooms for text-book service, browsing service and research service.

443I *Reserve Book Room*

There is a vast text-book reading-room called the Reserve Book Room which is ever filled with busy students. It has shelf-space for about 10,000 volumes. The text-books brought into this room for collateral reading and the number of copies of each book are decided at the beginning of each academic year jointly by the librarian and the members of the faculty. The books are arranged under the name of the course or the Professors. Many of the books are lent by the departments of the University. They are available only for study within the premises. The issue is for a specific number of hours. The due hour is stamped on the date-label and the charged tickets also are filed first by due hours and then by call numbers. There is always a long queue of registrations for each copy. Copies are lent out for overnight use. Return of such copies at the moment the library opens on the next day is obligatory and the sanction to enforce return is the cutting out of the privilege of over-night borrowing. This Reserve Book Room has a staff of three assistants.

4432 *Browsing Room*

There is a browsing room called the Linomia and Brothers Library which contains about 15,000 volumes of a semi-popular nature on all kinds of subjects. They are mostly authoritative books written with a flair. This is the meeting place of the undergraduates and the post-graduate specialists. This room gives them facility to acquaint themselves with the latest thought on subjects other than those in which they specialise. There are comfortable lounges in this room. Books can also be borrowed for study at home. There is a librarian with two assistants in charge of this collection and its service.

4433 *The Main Collection*

The main library which has the rest of the books and all the learned periodicals, monographs and treatises is the resort of the advanced students who are naturally limited in number. They get reference help. They have private cubicles in which they can leave their writing or typing materials and the books chosen by them until they complete their study. There are also seminar rooms for group discussions with books and a few lecture rooms where a professor can meet his specialist students amidst books. The book-cards of all the books, taken by readers to any of these rooms, are filed in the counter against the rooms in which the books will be kept for use, so that the library can collect them if somebody else wants them for use.

4434 *Adequate Staff*

This kind of three-channel flow of service is a great help. Our university libraries should think along these lines if they are to play an effective part in the development of our young men and the promotion of study-habit and taste for research in them. This will, of course, mean more staff and a better trained and a better informed staff. In fact, the proportion of library staff to undergraduates in some of the American Universities is as 1 to 50.

CHAPTER 5

BUSINESS LIBRARIES

Business libraries are the new species that have become dominant in the interval between now and my first visit to the West. The chief feature of these libraries is that the microscopic units of thought embodied as articles in periodicals, pamphlets and leaflets take the place of the microscopic units of thought embodied in books. These are not meant for recreation but for information—information often served in anticipation without even waiting for the demand. These factors imply a more powerful, minute and hospitable technique of classification and cataloguing, a thorough scanning of all published materials from the angle of the institution served, and quickness of service. This specialised service given by business libraries has come to be called Documentation Service. An idea of the range of subjects covered by the business libraries of England can be had from the list given in section 6312.

51 INDUSTRIAL LIBRARIES

The demand for documentation service originated from industrial houses. As the library profession had been narrowly identified with public libraries where recreative reading dominated, the industrial libraries first came to be called Information Bureaus. This change in name caused some confusion and the persons recruited were first drawn mostly from those who had specialised in the technique of the industry rather than in the technique of the library—classifying, cataloguing, abstracting and serving information. But the inefficiency which resulted from this mistake was soon realised and it is being set right though the name of the organisation has not been changed. This Anglo-Saxon way of changing the substance without changing the label has caused confusion in India.

511 Imitation of Form only

For example during the last two or three years, the Government have created so many posts with the label "Information Officers" in imitation of what happens in England. As it is not known what service is expected of them, all kinds of educated idlers find a haven in them if they have an adequate political pull. The enthusiasm for multiplying these mysterious posts is growing by leaps and bounds. The result is that at a time when there is shortage of educated man-power, many are thrown into a vegetative state by appointment as information officers. This needs attention at high level.

512 Hunger for Depth Classification

The information service maintained by the British Aluminium Company is typical. It made a small beginning in 1929 with a gathering of technical files. But it grew rapidly. It started doing abstracting service by 1930 for research laboratories, branch office and the head-office itself. The aluminium industry assumed great dimensions only after the First World-War. It covers the entire spectrum of prospecting, mining, metallurgy and semi-manufacture. It has now become a runner-up to steel. Its library has kept pace with these large strides. It has now a stock of 15,000 files. As no existing scheme of classification is detailed enough for its purpose, it has improvised its own schedule of foci. It has a large staff to circulate materials to the work-tables of the officers. It is coming across several technical problems which need investigation and research. The Metal Box Company is another example. Its librarian can find only one division in the U.D.C. into which all his documents (which are on Package Industry) have to be placed. This is the very negation of classification and documentation. It is problems like these which came to my notice in my tour. The librarian of such industrial libraries could easily grasp the splendid potentiality of the Colon Classification for

such "depth-classification" needed for documentation service in their libraries. Their hunger for "depth-classification" is insatiable—a very healthy sign of life. I too came to realise this potentiality fully for the first time by observing the kind of service which the industrial libraries were seeking to render. This brought home to me the concept of "Optional Facets" with which I am now occupied and the need for investigating it further. It is on this concept that my talk on "Self-perpetuating Classification" before the joint meeting of the Aslib and the Society for Visiting Scientists, was focussed. This concept needs considerable research and experiment. I, therefore, made an appeal to the Royal Society and similar organisations to provide for full-timed research in documentation technique. I am gratified to find that the editorial article in the issue for May, 1949 of the *Library Association record* has given evidence that this point is being recognised. For it reads:

513 Need for Fundamental Experimental Work

"Apart from their contribution to the field of library co-operation, special libraries [this is the name in Anglo-Saxon countries for what I have called Business Libraries and which have documentation as their distinctive feature] can render a greater service to the profession by acting as "guinea pigs" for experiment in library technique. The importance of carrying out more fundamental experimental work in library "science" was stressed again and again by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan when he visited this country last year, a visit which will be remembered for very many years to come by everyone who was privileged to hear him speak. Special libraries are admirably suited for the carrying out of such experiments for two main reasons. Firstly most of them are fairly small and therefore modifications in technique can be made without too serious a dislocation of their normal working. Secondly many of them are attached to a scientific or an industrial organisation and they thus have close contact with the latest development in science and technology."

I feel very much handicapped in the present phase of my work on documentation and optional facets for

want of facilities in India to have intimate contact with specialists in the several industries or with librarians or libraries of industrial houses.

52 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARIES

521 Library of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning

The value of documentation service in a small library which specialises in a narrow region of knowledge was soon seen by the departments of Governments. They are being developed with great eagerness in the libraries of these departments. For example the small library of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning is typical of them. Less than a thousand volumes of books and directories, a few hundreds of specialised periodicals, quite a stream of ephemeral stuff, a staff of five or six documentalists digesting all the information contained in them in a shape which will exactly answer the problems engaging the attention of the Ministry—these are its features. It is not the building that makes it big: it is in fact huddled in a few small rooms. Nor is it the number of volumes. It is the specialised and intensive service by a squad of documentalists which makes it valuable.

522 Library of the Swedish Railways

Here is another interesting example. It is the Library of the Swedish Railways which is housed in the railway buildings at the Stockholm Central Station. It is manned by two ladies. They work without measure. They have a stock of 50,000 volumes, to which about 1,000 are added each year. They have to attend daily to about 200 telephone calls from all over the railway asking for reference information, issue 40 volumes on loan to the railway staff living in Stockholm, and attend to correspondence including typing. About 100 periodicals are taken. They are all documented. About 100,000 documentation cards have accumulated. A

bulletin of abstracts is issued periodically for circulation throughout the railway. The periodicals themselves are circulated to the officers marking against each person's name in the circulation label the exact pages which may interest him. In addition, boxes or bags of books are to be filled now and again to be sent to out-stations and received and discharged when returned. And yet no appeal for additional staff has been heeded to by the management. I was so moved by this that I sent the following letter to the General Manager on 1 July 1949:

"To observe the latest developments in library service, on the eve of a great library programme we intend to launch in India, I am visiting the several countries of Western Europe and the United States."

"This morning I visited the Library of your Railway. It is doing excellent work. The enthusiasm, energy and earnestness of Miss Egnell and Miss Johanssonj impressed me as amazing. I have not seen in my travel any library where so much of reference service and documentation work is done just by two persons."

"I have evolved a formula to determine the strength of staff required in a library on the basis of the turn-over of work. I am enclosing a copy of it for your perusal and use."

"I feel that a staff of at least eight persons should be normally necessary in your library, if the workers are to be treated in a human way and given time for rest and relaxation without wrecking their health prematurely. One should not run a willing horse to death, as the saying goes. I trust that you will find it possible to pay your personal attention to this matter."

"It is my admiration for the brave way in which the two ladies are shouldering the work with good cheer which makes me write to you."

"As I know how easily the arduousness of work in a library, which functions up like yours, is underestimated, I am taking the liberty of bringing this matter to your personal notice."

It was very gratifying to hear that this appeal had borne fruit. It was left in cold storage for about a year. When a new General Manager with progressive views took charge, he sanctioned an increase of staff.

523 Library of the U.S.A. Department of Agriculture

One of the biggest and best organised departmental libraries I have visited is that of the Department of Agriculture of the United States. Every detail in the working of that library has been rationalised with great thought. The apportionment of routine work between man and machinery is remarkable. From book-selection to documentation, the stream of work is well regulated and the strength of the staff for each stage is so articulated that the work flows uniformly and practically every evening the table of every member of the staff is clean. What a contrast to the innumerable loose ends we find in many libraries leading to heartbreak among the sensitive members of the staff and vexation among the users of the library. The published documentation materials of this library are too well-known to be listed here. The scope given for the blossoming of the creative element in each member of the staff down to the juniormost typist filled me with satisfaction and was a splendid demonstration and fulfilment of my ideal described in the *Library administration* (1935) in the words:

"The librarian should deal with every situation and distribute work in such a way that an opportunity is afforded for the personality of each member of the staff to get itself expressed as fully and as artistically as possible in his work. Even routine becomes an enjoyable work of art if the personality of the performer can express itself in it. In that case, the routine gets adjusted in the most well-proportioned and the most economical way. The wastage in human personality is most elusive and requires the full play of the personality of the librarian for its elimination."

524 Army Medical Library

Another giant departmental library of the United States is that of the Surgeon-General's Office. It is the largest medical library in the world. Its famous librarian Billings was the first to practise exhaustive analytical cataloguing in a library of a huge size. The result is the imposing array of tomes of its Dictionary

Catalogue. In the far-off days when he started this work, the term documentation had not been coined. His documentation had to depend entirely on cataloguing technique; for classification reaching to sufficient depth had not been devised. To have persistently carried the work through for so many years, in spite of this handicap, speaks volumes for the courage and conviction of the librarians concerned. I felt delighted when I was invited to visit this library which I had all along been admiring from distant India. Our discussion went straight into the thick of classificatory technique. For the authorities of the library seem to have realised the unnecessary handicap, if not the futility, they were experiencing by the continuance of sole dependence on cataloguing technique for exhaustive documentation work. While I was glad that they had decided to put into use the twin engines of classification and cataloguing for the purpose, I felt disappointed that they were contemplating the use of a primitive model for the classification part of the twin and that they had not realised that the twin can be made to attain maximum efficiency only if the two are integrated and made to work in unison. The latter is a necessary consequence of the former. Unless the classification scheme in use is of the new kind which has the quality of an artificial language of ordinal numbers capable of individualising any specific subject, whatever be its depth or degree of intension, the symbiosis between the two engines could neither be sensed nor be turned to advantage. In the short period I could stay in that library, I suppressed my desire to go round and salute that admirable collection and devoted the whole time to a discussion of this point with the authorities. I felt that this self-denial was worth making in view of the enormous financial and human resources of that library and the overwhelming influence its decision will have on the progress of library technique. A major move of the kind contemplated by that library may occur perhaps

once in a century; and this made me apprehend the intensity of the tragedy which will result unless the classificatory part of the twin engines is of the latest self-perpetuating model. That tragedy had once occurred in America by the wrong step taken half a century ago by the Library of Congress. It is only America that has the resources and the will to take large strides in library matters. It is an irony—or is it the *lila* (sport) of God—that such subtle but serious faults should have happened once and should threaten to recur again in the efforts of that land. Nothing will be lost by going slow in such huge undertakings. My appeal was that they should put promising young men on research duty to devise a self-perpetuating scheme of classification which fully exploits facet- and phase-analysis and particularly the use of optional facets whose potentiality has not yet been fully examined. I wish I were younger and were born in the United States so that I could seize that opportunity to fulfil myself.

525 Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs

The Library of the Ministry of Economic Affairs of Holland is doing considerable documentation work. It publishes a daily entitled *Economische Voorlichting*. This is mainly bibliographical. But the bibliography is well sandwiched by factual articles on various economic problems engaging public attention in any country of the world.

526 India Office Library

In consequence of the Indian Independence Act, the name 'India Office Library' which was in use from 1858 to 1947 was changed into 'Commonwealth Relations Office Library—Division B'. Though technically a Departmental Library, it has not developed any of the documentation activities like other Departmental Libraries.

Its value is due to its being the largest collection of printed and manuscript materials in the West specialising in Indology. It grew out of the Library of the East India Company which was originally housed in the East India House in Leadenhall Street. It was formed as a repository of the oriental books and manuscripts collected by the Company's servants in India. It was removed to the present quarters in King Charles Street, Whitehall, in 1867. It was entitled to the benefits of the Indian Press and Registration of Books Act (Act XXV of 1867). The copyright deposit has been the most prolific source of its accessions after the passing of this Act. In 1895, the scope of its accessions was liberalised so as to include all published materials relating to India and a selection of those relating to Asia.

Here is an analysis of its stock:

Printed Books			
<i>Language</i>	<i>No. of vols.</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>No. of vols.</i>
European	.. 60,000	Hindi	.. 19,400
Arabic	.. 5,000	Kashmiri	.. 130
Persian	.. 4,700	Marathi	.. 9,200
Sanskrit	.. 19,000	Nepali	.. 450
Pali	.. 1,750	Oriya	.. 4,000
Tibetan	.. 120	Panjabi	.. 5,000
Zend	.. 24	Sindhi	.. 2,200
Pahlavi	.. 11	Urdu	.. 20,000
Chinese	.. 1,850	Tamil	.. 15,500
Assamese	.. 700	Malayalam	.. 1,260
Bengali	.. 24,000	Kanarese	.. 2,500
Gujarati	.. 9,500	Telugu	.. 6,200

There are a few books in several other Indian and Asian languages, taking the total stock to about 2,50,000.

The manuscripts include about 70 separate collections. About 48 per cent. of these were officially deposited by the different administrations of India. About 40 per cent. were presented by official and non-

official scholars who had collected them while in India. The remaining 12 per cent had been purchased. The Sanskrit manuscripts number about 8,000 while the Arabic and Persian manuscripts together make up an equal number.

Besides books and manuscripts, the library has a good collection of drawings, photographs and photographic negatives of Indian antiquities. The number of negatives is about 2,300.

The materials of this library will form a sumptuous nucleus for the National Central Library of India. Early steps should be taken to have them transferred to India. The National Central Library of no other country can be said to have had an equally good start. I trust that the opportunity will not be let go by the authorities. Procrastination may prove fatal.

53 INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY

The movement for depth-classification and documentation, which was originated by industries and has already come to be used by departments of Governments, has begun to affect other classes of institutions also.

531 Chatham House and Newspaper Cuttings Service

A remarkable special form of documentation service is the Newspaper Cuttings Service practised by the Institute of International Affairs housed in Chatham House. Toynbee's annual volumes had been always evoking in me admiration and a desire to know the mechanism by which he was being fed with such an exhaustive facade of facts. The lady in charge of this work invited me to Chatham House when we met at the Aslib Conference at Leamington Spa. I welcomed it and spent a few hours in studying its organisation. An opportunity soon came to record the experience gained during this visit and the train of thought released by it, when the Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee

asked for a memorandum on the reorganisation of their Newspaper Cuttings Department. Here is the scheme which the visit to Chatham House enabled me to draft:

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Press Cuttings Department Memorandum

5310 Conspectus

The memorandum which follows is in three sections. The first section is entitled "Documentation and its Need". It traces the evolution of the desire for a Press Cuttings Service on the part of the thinkers and the public workers in India and the factors shaping that evolution.

The second section, entitled "Experience Elsewhere", describes the Press Cuttings Service of Denmark and shows the difference between news cuttings service and similar cuttings service for scientific workers. It also gives a fuller description of the Chatham House experience in Great Britain and mentions the special requirements of any efficient Press Cuttings Service.

The third section, entitled "Re-organisation", outlines a scheme for organising the Press Cuttings Department of the Office of the Indian National Congress. Formation of six sections is suggested. For each section, the nature of work is described and data are given about the qualification and the strength of the personnel.

The fact that the All-India Congress Office is already maintaining a section to make, preserve and serve cuttings from current newspapers is proof that its value is realised in general. The problem is only to examine its organisation in the light of its own experience, the experience of similar bodies elsewhere and the requirements of exhaustive documentation work so essential for the efficient discharge of the duties of the Indian National Congress in the position it occupies in the new political set-up of our Motherland. We shall consider these factors in their inverse order.

5311 Documentation and its Need

53111 Work Before Independence

Before independence, the work of the Indian National Congress was mainly the stepping up of the emotional potential of the people against politically dependent status. Providence

provided the chief means for the efficient and comparatively rapid performance of this work in the person of Mahatma Gandhi. His personality canalised the minds of the leaders and the masses alike and forged the technique for creating a cascade of popular emotion with an impulsive force capable of attaining political independence. It has succeeded.

53112 Work after Independence

What next? The Mahatma himself had emphasised that political independence was only a means to an end. This emphasis of his is in keeping with the philosophy of value embodied in our traditional statements:

The value of what has happened is in helping the happening of what yet remains to happen.

The value of what has been achieved is in helping the achievement of what yet remains to be achieved.

The value of political independence is in the freedom it has given us to add to the happiness, joy and delight of all our people by providing in the fullest measure for their vital needs like food, clothing and shelter, their mental needs like information, recreation and creative work, and their spiritual needs.

53113 New World-Trend

This has to be achieved in a world-trend which had long ago transcended the closed systems of village life and of provincial or regional life and is struggling to replace even closed national systems by a world-system. The larger the political unit, the larger the quantity of facts and figures to be collected, comprehended and digested to maintain useful, productive, political life.

531131 *India as a Unit and Its Implications*

The renaissance of Europe happened at a time when smaller political units were the order of the day. The result had been that Europe got organised as an aggregate of small nations. The renaissance of India is happening at a time when even Europe is in travail to slough off its multi-national set-up. It would be against time-spirit to organise the political, industrial, and cultural revival of India on provincial basis. This means that the revival of our life to-day has to be on an all-India

basis and the canvass of facts and figures needed has therefore to be larger than what any other nation had had to deal with hitherto.

531132 *Democratic Basis and Its Implications*

Moreover the renaissance of Europe happened at a time when democracy had not yet established itself. Freedom of opinion and expression had not yet been conceded as a fundamental right of every citizen. The art of printing had not yet been perfected to produce copies of newspapers by the thousands within an hour. Electricity and electro-magnetic waves had not yet been harnessed to transmit thought, news and opinion across any space whatever. The renaissance of India is happening at a time when all these factors have established themselves firmly and even the small individual countries of Europe feel overpowered by the plethora of facts and figures which crowd their respective tiny canvass. This means that the revival of our life to-day has to be amidst an unparalleled crowding of our vast canvass with facts and figures.

53114 *Externalised Memory and Cuttings Section*

Occurrences and utterances of all kinds in any corner of the country get reported in print and get read or relayed in almost every house. What is more, because they are printed, they get preserved unmutilated, such as they would not have been if transmitted and preserved orally. This makes severe demands on political organisations, such as the Indian National Congress has to care for. Even the most encyclopaedic memory will fail in these circumstances. The only memory that can function is "Externalised Memory". The purpose of the cuttings section is just to build up such an externalised memory and make it work. Consistency and purposiveness of action will be jeopardised and chaos and confusion will be introduced in the life of the country if this externalised memory is not kept plentiful, truthful and easily useable.

53115 *Memory of Social Personality*

The cutting and documentation work inside the capacious memory of the living man is marvellous. Its organisation is almost perfect in the case of some. The psychology of association, which receives new facts into memory, stores them in helpful order and produces them in any grouping and permutation needed at any moment, is inimitable in its simplicity and certitude. What is its mechanism? Is it the biochemistry

of the brain-cells? Can it be imitated by externalised memory? It is the work of the Creator of Man. Man may not be able to equal his Creator. And yet he has been vouchsafed some creative power of his own. The field for the exercise of this power in the building up of an analogue of memory should be sought not within the person of God-created man, but within the social personality of an organised group of men like a nation, which is created by the instinct of man.

531151 *Memory-Filling*

The facts which pour into the memory of the social personality of a nation are far more numerous than those which enter the memory of a single man. As it has been described in *Chandogya-Upanishad* and relayed by Sri Aurabindo, memory or *Citta* gets filled through six channels—the five primary senses or the *indriyas* which draw experience from the external world and the *manas*, a two-way channel, which passes experience from memory to intellect or *Buddhi* for its getting transformed and multiplied by permutations, combinations and other means and re-transmits the new experiences so formed back into memory. The memory of a cultural and political unit is an integral, partial though it might be, of the memories of its members. The facts, which it has to receive, organise and produce, are therefore far more numerous.

531152 *Magnification by Nearness*

Time may dissolve away part of the memory in due course. The residual memory in old age may be but a fraction of what it had held at various times taken together. So it is with the archival and cultural collections of a community. But its contemporary political collection has to handle not merely what is of permanent value but also a good deal more of stuff of temporary value. Nearness magnifies the size and importance of many things. Political expediency has to respect this distortion by nearness. A political organisation like the Indian National Congress has therefore to respect this distortion by nearness.

531153 *Newspapers as Primary Senses*

The Daily newspapers and the newspaper-like organs of longer periodicity are like the primary senses of the social personality of the political entity called the nation. The Cuttings Department has to collect and organise everything which gets expressed through them. Its failure will be a measure of the failure of the capacity to hear and see on the

part of its parent body. If it does not function in full awareness, to that extent the Indian National Congress will have to act like a man with a defective vision, hearing etc., and its efficiency as a political organisation will deteriorate. Nothing should therefore be grudged to keep the Press Cuttings Department at the highest possible level of efficiency.

5312 *Experience Elsewhere*

53121 *Danish Experience*

In this I had occasion to witness the great importance attached to Press Cuttings Service in Denmark and Great Britain and to the organisations maintained for the purpose. In Denmark, the Bibliographical Institute founded and being maintained with a subsidy from Government receives all the important newspapers in the Scandinavian countries and maintains cuttings of them. Each cutting is maintained as an independent or separable unit and any citizen anywhere in these countries can get a mechanically reproduced copy of any cutting. This is the most remarkable nation-wide service of press cuttings I know of.

53122 *Scientific Service*

At the scientific level the Aslib of Great Britain and several similar organisations supply mechanically reproduced copies of any recorded material. The materials they supply are usually articles in learned periodicals and these periodicals are usually covered by abstracting periodicals and cumulative indexes. Thus the search for the material is provided for and the original is printed and preserved in permanent form. Neither of these two conditions obtain in the case of newspaper articles. Few papers print copies on comparatively permanent paper. Few are bound and preserved. Fewer still are covered by indexes.

53123 *News Service*

The newspaper articles are, therefore, cut and mounted on card boards; such card boards are to be preserved in protective binding cases. Further, experience has shown that it is cheaper to have them assembled in a well-classified manner, each binding case holding the cuttings on a single specific subject of suitable extension, and the cuttings in each case being arranged among themselves first in a further classified manner and then by dates. Most of the cuttings will be multifocal.

Some will have to be represented in two or more specific subjects and some will need, in addition, to be represented under the name of the author. There are two ways of meeting this demand for multiple representation. Certain items which can be multiplied by taking cuttings from different papers may be made to furnish a copy to each necessary place in the arrangement. Or, the single cutting may be placed in its dominant specific subject or place and it may be represented at other places by a card which shows its location. The same card, belonging to a particular specific subject, may show the reference to several cuttings bearing on it but located in different places. In practice a mixture of these two methods is used. It has been found convenient to have a separate sequence of cuttings for each year.

53124 *Chatham House Experience*

The Institute for International Affairs at the Chatham House, London, has the longest run of binding cases of newspaper cuttings I know of. It cuts some two hundred newspapers. Its battery of cuttings is used by several workers. Its service is made to reach throughout the world by the annual digest of such cuttings published as *Survey of international affairs*, the well-known product of the editorial skill of Toynbee. In addition to the widening or corrective influence of extensive public use, this end product acts as a canalising force for the entire work of the Press Cuttings Department. Any mechanism will get continuously improved, maintained in good repair and provided with adequate funds for up-keep and growth only if it is continuously put to active and valued use. So it is with the mechanism of externalised memory. The genius of the British for organisation has involuntarily acted on this principle and is maintaining the Press Cuttings Department, not as a ritual insignia or for casual use, but ostensibly for a definite and continuous use. This has vitalised that Department. A staff of 25 is easily regarded as worthwhile; and yet when I visited the Department in September 1948, its chief complained of inadequate staff. The staff is organised on a functional basis. A helpful route-ing of materials and work has been evolved. Above all, service is the spotlight of the organisation. It looks as if the fear of the curse of long unused press cuttings is acting as a deterrent on the parent body and makes it provide a small team of two reference librarians for the continuous feeding of Toynbee and for the casual feeding of visitors from outside, the most frequent and influential of whom are the reference librarians of the House of Commons.

531251 *The Mechanics*

The mechanical work of cutting and mounting may appear to be a trivial matter of scissors and paste. But when the work has to be on a large scale and for permanent preservation, it raises many issues. I can say that it even gains a status arresting attention at high level. For example, at the Leamington Spa Conference of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureau, I heard a well-attended and well-discussed paper on the Methods of Cutting and Mounting. The chief of the Press Cuttings Department of the Chatham House followed it up by exhibiting many specimens of work.

531252 *The Technicians*

The work of the technicians is concerned with the classification, cross-referencing and the orderly arrangement and maintenance of the cuttings and the cross references so as:—

- (i) to find for every enquirer all his cuttings;
- (ii) to find for every cutting all its possible users; and
- (iii) to save the time of the users and servers.

This is documentation proper. Its efficiency depends on the use of two artificial languages:—

(i) an ultra-detailed scheme of classification, and a truly equivalent artificial agglutinative language of substantives alone, though these may be taken from a natural language. There is a symbiotic relation between these two artificial languages. India has been chiefly responsible to point out the existence of this relation and the means of exploiting it for the benefit of Documentation Service in general and Press Cuttings Service in particular. It has been called Chain Procedure in my books on cataloguing. The technique of this work has now become the special field of the library profession for nearly seventy years and is being co-ordinated at the International Federation for Documentation (F.I.D.) as the clearing house for all national efforts.

5313 *Organisation*

The Press Cuttings Department of the Office of the Indian National Congress should consist of six sections:—

1. The Reading and Marking Section or R.M.S.;
2. The Cutting and Mounting Section or C.M.S.;
3. The Classifying and Cataloguing Section or C.C.S.;

4. The Filing and Maintenance Section or F.M.S.;
5. The Locating and Serving Section or L.S.S.; and
6. The Digesting and Editing Section or D.E.S.

The newspapers treated should be processed in the following order:—

1. The R.M.S. for reading and marking;
2. The C.M.S. for cutting and mounting;
3. The C.C.S. for preliminary classification;
4. The C.C.S. for final classification, cross reference and cataloguing; and
5. The F.M.S. for filing.

53131 *The Reading and Marking Section*

531311 *Its Work*

The work of the R.M.S. will be to peruse the newspapers and mark the items which deserve to be cut and preserved. The marking should consist of putting in coloured pencil the main digit of the classification number of the specific subject of the cutting in a standard place at its head and foot. If the matter for a cutting is continued in another column or another page a suitable indication should be given to guide the cutter correctly. The selection of the matter for a cutting is a matter of judgement. It will have to follow some general principles framed for the purpose from time to time. Work of this nature will require terrible concentration. Persons of this section should not be disturbed in their work to attend to other duties connected with the parent organisation.

531312 *Its Personnel*

Work of this nature naturally requires men of high academic qualifications and mature judgement. They should have a flair for what is likely to be of immediate and future use. They should be persons who are well-versed in all social and scientific matters engaging or likely to engage public attention.

531313 *Its Strength*

If persons of proper calibre are recruited and if they are left undisturbed by any other call on their time it should be possible for one person to read and mark about 30 newspapers in a day. This figure is subject to correction in the light of experience. It must be remembered that one or two

of a group of 30 papers is easily recognised to be the most authentic and exhaustive. It should be possible to use these select papers to mark news items and reviews and extracts. The other papers in the group may not require so much time for marking news items. The editorials will have of course to be perused in all cases with equal attention. Another factor must be taken into consideration in determining the strength of the staff of this section; that is the language of the newspapers.

53132 *The Cutting and Mounting Section*

531321 *Its Work*

The work of the C.M.S. is cutting the marked articles, mounting them on standard boards and writing, in the top, the name of the source from which the cutting is taken. Each cutting should be on a different mount. It is sufficient if the top-edge is pasted down and the rest of the cutting is folded so as to lie entirely within the mount. This will give facility to make both sides of a cutting available for reading whenever necessary. If a cutting is too long for a single mount it may be spread over more than one mount marked "continued". This is called Unit-Mount System. The older method of applying paste to the entire surface of a cutting and pasting the cutting down on a bound or loose-leaf note-book is being discarded. The unit-mount system has greater flexibility in filing and serving. It will admit of all cuttings on the same specific subject being filed together and making service more exhaustive and expeditious. The question of the risk of losing units may be raised. But it is not new to this problem. During the last 70 years the unit-card system has replaced the bound as well as the loose-leaf ledger system in almost all libraries, offices, and business houses including banks. It has been found that it is quite possible to train the staff and the users to exercise greater care and a higher civic sense in handling cards and mounts. If the system is approved in principle, I shall be glad to secure in due course samples of unit-mounts with the necessary headings printed. Similar mounts may be locally made or imported for the first year or until we are able to make our own mounts. These mounts are usually made of Manila or Bristol Boards.

531322 *Its Personnel*

Work of this nature needs manual skill rather than intellectual ability. Literacy is of course necessary. Boys and girls can be easily trained to do this work. It is tidiness, trustworthiness and speed which are wanted

531323 *Its Strength*

Normally it should be possible for a member of this section to cut and mount about 12 pieces an hour. This is only a conjecture. The correct capacity should be found by actual observation.

53133 *The Classifying and Cataloguing Section*531331 *Its Work*

The work of the C.C.S. will take more time for each cutting than that of any other section. It is, therefore, desirable that the work of this section on the cuttings of the day should be done in two stages. In the first stage the section should do only preliminary classification and work the class number to a few facets and digits in such a way that all the unit-mounts can be sorted out within the day on a display table. The surface of the display table will have several compartments formed by curbs about 2 inches high. Each compartment will have a label showing the specific subject which it will receive. The usefulness of preliminary classification and sorting of the cuttings on the table is two-fold. In the first place, the cuttings will be available for perusal of users on the very next day. Secondly, detailed classification and cataloguing can be done with greater speed if bunches of cuttings dealing with the same specific subject are further classified and catalogued together.

After final classification the full call number of each cutting will be entered in the leading section of the mount. The classifier will also enter on the back of the mount the call number of every other specific subject which forms a secondary focus in the cutting and the name of every person under whom the cutting should be indexed. Such a record of all the added entries of a cutting on the back of its own mount is necessary in order to remove all those added entries from the file when the cutting is weeded out for any reason.

As already indicated added entries will be of two kinds: cross-references from specific subjects and from names of persons. The former type will consist of a mount without a cutting on it. Its leading section will contain the class number of the specific subject from which the reference is made. The body of the mount will contain in succession the call numbers of all the cuttings to which reference is invited. The second type will also consist of a mount without a cutting on it. Its leading section will contain the name of the author from whom reference is made and the body of the mount will give successively the call numbers of the cuttings of which he is the author.

As soon as the classification of a cutting is over, the classifier should write class index cards. Each class index card will give the name of a specific subject in its leading section and the class number equivalent to it at the end of the next line.

531332 *Its Personnel*

It can be seen that the work of this section is highly specialised. Intensive training in depth-classification and cataloguing work, such as is given in the second year of the Post-graduate Degree Course in Library Science in the University of Delhi, will be necessary for the members of this section. Their general academic qualifications and personality should, in addition, be as high as those of the R.M.S. Their salary level should therefore be higher. It is unwise to expect an untrained person to devise his own system of class numbers and subject headings to meet the requirements of this kind of specialised service and it is unfair to find fault with him later for inefficiency in service. An improvised local system may work for a year or two, if the same person is continued on the job and has a good memory. But when the number of cuttings increases beyond a certain limit, even the most capacious memory will fail. A hotchpotch will result and the file of cuttings may yield some but never all the cuttings bearing on a given subject. If there is a change in staff there will be endless disorder and confusion. If the intention is to make the Press Cutting Service as permanent a feature and as efficient as that of the Chatham House, the C.C.S. should adopt a well-tried published standard scheme of classification and should be manned by persons with necessary technical training in classification and cataloguing work.

531333 *Its Strength*

An experienced classifier may be able to deal with about 100 cuttings in a day, if left undisturbed. This figure will be of help in determining the strength of the section.

53134 *The Filing and Maintenance Section*

531341 *Its Work*

The work of the F.M.S. will be to file in their proper places all the new cuttings received and insert the new class index catalogue cards which may be created by the C.C.S., from day to day. This section should also replace the mounts which

might have been taken out for use either by the C.C.S. or by the L.S.S. It should further cumulate at suitable intervals the annual sequences of the cuttings.

531342 *Its Personnel*

The members of the F.M.S. should be thoroughly familiar with the ordinal arrangement of call numbers and with alphabetisation. This can be easily taught to persons of ordinary ability who have completed the school course. Tidiness and trustworthiness will be two essential qualities for the members of this section.

531343 *Its Strength*

The strength of the F.M.S. will depend upon the number of new clippings prepared and the old cuttings taken out for use each day. The daily turnover is very poor at present. If the Press Cutting Department is to justify its existence and if the enlightened vitality of public life in our country is to improve, the daily turnover of this section should demand the full-time service of at least one member. Generally, one person will be needed for every 300 cuttings to be filed.

53135 *The Locating and Serving Section*

531351 *Its Work*

The work of the L.S.S. will be to find out his requirements from each enquirer by careful conversation. I can say from experience that this is a vital task. Few enquirers—even university professors—know to enunciate their requirements in exact terms; still less do they know what materials are likely to meet their requirements. The experience of the L.S.S. will stand them in good stead in helping the enquirers over this hurdle. After noting down the needs of an enquirer, the L.S.S. should locate and collect all the relevant cuttings for his use. For location they will have to use the cross reference and author mounts and the catalogue cards giving the class numbers of specific subjects. Eventually, it may be worthwhile to put up the plant necessary to supply mechanically reproduced copies of cuttings to those who need them.

531352 *Its Personnel*

Members of this section should have a wide knowledge of men and things and of current affairs. They should also be men of high academic qualifications. They should also be

adepts in the technique of classification and cataloguing. For it is this mechanism that will help them to make their service exact, expeditious and exhaustive. The members of this section should therefore have the same professional qualification as those of the C.S.S.

531353 *Its Strength*

The strength of the L.S.S. will depend upon the number of enquirers to be served each day. The daily turnover is very poor at present. If the Press Cuttings Department is to justify its existence, and if the enlightened vitality of public life in our country is to improve, the daily turnover of this section should demand its strength to be at the rate of one for every 50 enquirers per day. At present the work is being done by two do-all members. They mark, classify, file, locate and serve. It is no wonder that the task is maddening to the worker and proves to be inefficient for the user. The value of this section will be realised and the need for strengthening it will arise, as and when respect for fact, adherence to reality, and general industry increase among our people.

53136 *The Digesting and Editing Section*

I plead strongly that the Congress Office should establish the D.E.S. to prepare an annual volume entitled *Review of Indian Affairs*. I should suggest Toynbee's *Review of International Affairs* as the model for scope and style with the modification that the "lens" used will be Indian instead of English. *Review of Indian Affairs* will include not only affairs within the borders of India but also affairs in the outside world which is of significance to her international existence. Such an annual will be an authentic fundamental source book. It will be a job requiring a full-time editor and a secretary.

As and when each annual volume comes out the cuttings of the year may be amalgamated into a single sequence with the cuttings of all the preceding years. This annual amalgamation leading to reduction to one sequence will make the use of the cuttings more effective and exhaustive. But it will involve considerable work.

The publication of the *Review of Indian Affairs* will act as an appetiser. It will bring more enquirers to the Press Cuttings Department. It will make our thinkers and public mind more realistic in matters where it is necessary to be realistic. This facility to keep to facts and to get all the facts with the least effort under the expert guidance of the L.S.S. will release the mind of many promising young men and women

to do useful creative work which will lead, to increasing happiness, joy and enlightenment, an ever-increasing number of the citizens of our Motherland.

532 Royal Empire Society

The documentation service now being done by the Library of the Royal Empire Society is of a high order and of immense value to the British citizens going abroad whether for business or for pleasure. This library prepares—on request as well as in anticipation—thoroughly reliable, well-documented digests of information including the latest statistical data on any member of the Commonwealth. This is a much-valued service which this library has begun to do under the influence of documentation spirit. It is leading to a fruitful exploitation of its immense collection of printed materials on the Commonwealth countries.

533 National Association of Swedish Architects

The library of the National Association of Swedish Architects takes about 250 architectural periodicals. India is represented by three of them. All these periodicals are systematically documented. The librarian classifies and catalogues all the articles. He has an excellent collection of reference books and dictionaries in several languages to help his work. There is a small staff which publishes monthly abstracts. The Government pays a grant to meet the difference between cost of production and sale proceeds. Photostat copies of articles are supplied. The library occupies a small room only. But the shelving arrangement is excellent. It makes the best use of the space without disfiguring the room. This has been made possible by the use of the special design of shelves made by Mr. Sparrings. I visited his workshop at 3, Riddergaten. He was kind enough to send a model to Delhi. It fulfils the ideal book-rack I had been vaguely dreaming about. I wish that the Indian libraries adopt this neat, economical and strong type of book-racks.

54 PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES

I visited the parliamentary libraries of France, Holland, Sweden and Norway on the Continent. They do not show any modern development. The documentation service being done for long by the parliamentary library of the United States (Library of Congress) has been already mentioned in section 173. The outstanding change I found was the institution of documentation service by the House of Commons Library.

The benefits of documentation service accruing in industrial and departmental libraries are beginning to make a wide-spread impression. The more exact and thorough information with which the government benches have begun to play their part in the parliamentary debates, as a result of the institution of documentation service in the departmental libraries, and the continuance of the dependence of opposition benches on general flair or partial information furnished by interested parties has created a greater inequality than before between the government and the opposition. The purpose of debate in a legislature is to discover the truth of a matter by an equal contest between two equally capable and equally well-informed parties. If one party is fed by elaborate documentation service and the other is not, this purpose of the debate is lost. Further, the opposition is tempted to play to the gallery by rhetorical fire-works and the subject under discussion is often left severely alone. This naturally leads not only to loss of legislative time but also serious subjects which do not lend themselves to rhetorical treatment come to be virtually decided upon without the influence of the opposition. The only way to eliminate this frustration of parliamentary government is to provide for the opposition, and the other members who do not hold office, as much documentation service as for the government benches. Naturally it is impracticable for the departmental libraries themselves to do equal service

to the ministers as well as to the opposition. The parliamentary library is the only agency that can be thought of in this connection. This must be vitalised and reconditioned to do documentation service. And this is what has happened during the last two years in the House of Commons Library. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Library of the House of Commons, the two reports of which were published in 1945-46 as House of Commons Paper Nos. 35 and 991, two new officers' posts and a secretary's post were added to the library staff in May, 1946 solely for documentation service. Persons with high general academic qualifications, a Diploma in Library Science and specialised training in documentation work have been appointed to these officers' posts. As the work is of a specialised nature, the salary scale has been so fixed that the incumbents may get reasonable monetary satisfaction without the need to change over to other work as it usually happens in government service. The function of the two new officers is to supply bibliographical information to members—and, in special circumstances, to outside enquirers—on any subject placed before them, or on any subject which, they feel, will be of interest to a number of Members of Parliament in view of its bearing on anticipated debate or legislation. Apart from information furnished in the form of letters and memoranda furnished to individual members, a bibliographical series is regularly issued in mimeographed form. About 70 bibliographies have already been published. Here is a list of the subjects covered in two years:

BIBLIOGRAPHIES PREPARED BY HOUSE OF
COMMONS LIBRARY TO DATE

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Machinery of Government (Revised edition). | 3. Palestine (Revised edition). |
| 2. Iron and Steel. | 4. British Coal Industry |

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5. Housing (Revised edition). | 29. Companies Bill |
| 6. Forestry | 30. Atomic Energy |
| 7. Central Organisation for Defence | 31. Local Government Boundaries |
| 8. Welsh Affairs (Revised edition). | 32. Parliamentary Representation |
| 9. The Press | 33. Sterling Balances |
| 10. Home and Overseas Trade | 34. International Police |
| 11. Exchange Control | 35. House of Lords Force |
| 12. Cotton (Centralised Buying) Bill | 36. Local Government Finance |
| 13. Inland Transport | 37. National Assistance |
| 14. Electricity Supply Industry | 38. Community Libel |
| 15. Distribution Costs | 39. Criminal Justice with an Appendix on Capital Punishment |
| 16. International Control of the Danube | 40. The British Film Industry |
| 17. Town and Country Planning Bill | 41. Civil Aviation |
| 18. Agriculture | 42. The British Gas Industry |
| 19. Industrial Development Councils | 43. The Territorial Army since the War |
| 20. Incentives in Industry | 44. A Capital Levy |
| 21. Inland Transport—Comment and Discussion and Agenda to No. 13 | 45. Man-power |
| 22. Women in Industry | 46. The Care of Deprived Children |
| 23. World Food Situation | 47. Monopolies |
| 24. India—Constitutional Reform | 48. European Recovery Programme |
| 25. Wage Structure and Policy | 49. Joint Consultation for Production |
| 26. Conscription | 50. National Health Service |
| 27. Government of Northern Ireland (Revised edition) | 51. Capital Punishment |
| 28. Post-war Education (England and Wales) | 52. National Insurance |
| | 53. Civil Defence. |

Research Department,
House of Commons Library
26th May, 1948.

A typical featuring of the bibliography is as under the following:

- A. Bibliographies
- B. Hansard references
- C. Parliamentary Papers

- D. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons
- E. Books and Pamphlets
- F. Some signed articles in newspapers and periodicals
- G. Some unsigned articles—mainly leaders.

Most of the entries are annotated.

The Library of Parliament cannot be expected to be self-contained to meet all the problems which come up for consideration by Parliament. The documentation assistants have to collect materials from every other library not only in London, not only within the country, but even from other countries. I was told that most of the days they have to spend in libraries like those of the Patent Office, the Chatham House, the British Museum, the London School of Economics and the Royal Empire Society. They have also to go often into the country to collect data from the public and other libraries in specialised industrial centres like Birmingham, Sheffield and Manchester. Occasionally they have also to make a journey to the continent and particularly Geneva which still has a big branch of the United Nations Library—the old League of Nations Library.

55 DOCUMENTATION

There is an enormous documentation activity in every country I visited. The industrial libraries demand it. The Departmental Libraries have begun to appreciate its usefulness. The learned bodies have begun to see the wisdom of entrusting it to the library profession which has developed it as a special discipline. Even the public libraries have begun to practise it. It is recognised by everybody that national economy and the nation's progress depend on it. When will India fall in line and revive herself? It is sad to reflect how we are wasting our time and energy—doing nothing concrete, talking, gossiping, without industry of any order. I feel humiliated when I am asked about the documentation work in our country. True, we have made some good

hits in our theoretical approach to documentation technique. There is no doubt that our new concept of optional facets will pull documentation from the deplorable rut into which it had been dragged by the western technique. But work like this in the fundamental level is of no use to the country unless our libraries practise documentation. It may be argued that our industries, our government departments and our academic bodies do not ask for it, do not know about its existence and do not provide for it. This is equivalent to throwing the blame on the absence of demand. But the vicious circle of supply and demand can be cut by the spontaneous start of supply as much as of demand. When our profession knows its value, it must have the patriotism and the pioneer's urge to put the supply across without waiting for demand to take shape. I remember the extraordinary forward action taken by the American motor-manufacturers to create a demand for bus service in the city of Madras about thirty years ago. It was the supply that came in first—not the demand. The demand followed—followed as certainly as day follows night. Let our profession rise to the occasion. Let each one of us begin documentation service severally and collectively. This is not to say 'Start a Special Library Association'. The Indian Library Association can take care of all collective responsibility for the time being. It is the individual libraries which must start supply and stimulate demand. May God help us!

CHAPTER 6

AD HOC BODIES

61 CENTRALISED BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SERVICE

611 France

In France, the national bibliography is in the hands of the National Central Library. Documentation work in scientific subjects is done by the Mineralogy Department at Sorbonne. The abstracting staff consists of about 400 part-timed scientific workers, without any considerable collaboration by the library profession. The documentation entries do not follow any scheme of classification; in fact there is no notation. Copies of any scientific material is supplied promptly at a very cheap cost. There is a large process-department to handle this work. It is the organisation and the State's liberal provision for it that are noteworthy. There will be a much greater return on this if the entries are featured in a classified order and, for this purpose, the work is entrusted primarily to trained classifiers.

612 Denmark

The Bibliographical Institute was founded in Copenhagen in 1937, as an *ad hoc* body for bibliographical service. The State gave an aid of 20,000 crowns or Rs. 15,000 in the first year and there was a staff of one. The present budget is 200,000 crowns of Rs. 150,000 of which the State contributes only 36,000 crowns and the rest is got by the sale of printed cards and other printed bibliographies. The staff is now 12 strong. About 2,000 books are listed in a year. The catalogue cards come out within two weeks of the receipt of the books. In the first year 60,000 cards were printed; in the second year 600,000; and of these 500,000 were sold out. Printed lists in book-form are published every month. Each entry has an "order-number" by which the catalogue cards are to be ordered. The catalogue cards have to be given such a serial number for filing and ordering purposes, since it would be wasteful to

have enough space in the storage cabinets for inserting the cards of the new books, if the cards are arranged by call numbers. There are two editions of the monthly lists—one without call number for the trade and one with call number for libraries. The libraries buy copies of the latter in bulk and give them to the readers—some free and some at cost price.

The Institute maintains a file of newspaper clippings which are lent freely through local libraries not only within Denmark but in any Scandinavian country. The government gives 6,000 crowns per annum as clippings grant. The newspapers give another 2,000 crowns. Several industrial houses pay an annual subscription for clippings service, which amounts to another 2,000 crowns. Photostat copies also are supplied. The Institute gets one copy of each newspaper free of cost to make clippings. I was told that one copy was found sufficient as it was seldom that both sides of a column contained important matter.

One copy of each published book also is given free by the publishers for classification and the preparation of catalogue cards. I enquired if the copy could not be got at the proof stage so as to release the catalogue cards with the books. The organiser said that he was working towards that ideal.

613 Great Britain

Documentation service is distributed among several agencies in Great Britain according to subjects. The Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux is the non-official body at the national level which co-ordinates the activities of all such bodies and seeks to establish standards. The Aslib arranges also for the supply of photostat and microfilm copies of documents on demand.

With regard to national bibliography, what was in a somewhat confidential stage, when I was in England, has now become public. An *ad hoc* body has been set up for the preparation of national bibliography, with the

name "Council of the British National Bibliography" appointed by the British Museum Library, the Library Association etc. The work will be done by a fully qualified staff of librarians who will work in the Copyright Section of the British Museum Library. A classified weekly list, a monthly alphabetical index and an annual classified catalogue with alphabetical index are planned. This is regarded as the beginning of a Central Cataloguing Service for the nation. The service was begun in the first week of January 1950, after a few trial issues which came out earlier.

614 United States

It has been already mentioned in section 17 that the National Central Library of the United States does considerable amount of work on national bibliography and documentation service. Further the Special Libraries Association founded in 1909 had been responsible for the stimulation of a large number of periodical bibliographies in several subjects. Messrs. H. W. Wilson & Co., are the publishers of most of these. They are also publishing what is virtually the national bibliography of the country, though it is planned to be a bibliography of English books irrespective of the country of origin.

62 CENTRALISATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

621 Denmark

The Bibliographical Institute of Denmark is extending its work into the administrative sphere also. It is standardising all the forms and registers required in libraries. I saw a full album in which specimens of all of them were mounted. These standardised materials are produced on a large scale by the Institute. It is also endeavouring to establish a central bindery for all libraries. The quick development of the Institute in all spheres is due partly to the tremendous influence of co-operative movement in the public mind.

622 Norway

Norway too has been developing such centralised

work. The Director of Libraries himself promotes it. He arranges for the central purchase, binding and preparation of books. He is now entrusting the execution to a contractor-body. Most of the libraries place their order for books with this agent. This enables the agent to buy the books in bulk. They are immediately given library binding. The publishers are not giving full co-operation; they refuse to supply the books in sheets. The agent has to pay for the publisher's casing, though he removes them as soon as the books arrive. In fact it was a tragic waste for the agent to employ two women just to peel off the publishers' cases from the books. The comparison between the attitudes of the book-trade in Norway and Denmark in this matter shows what a long way the co-operative movement goes in eliminating national waste. After being bound, the books are tagged, date-labelled and call-numbered, the call-number being taken from the bibliographical monthly published by the Director of Libraries. The books reach libraries along with their printed catalogue cards quite ready for circulation. This agency employs a staff of 36 for binding and 25 for office-work with one general manager and two section managers. It purchases, binds and distributes about 210,000 volumes in a year. I found that there was a time-lag of about seven months. The Director attributed this to the abnormal post-war conditions in which labour as well as binding materials were very scarce. If the time-lag can be eliminated, this will no doubt lead to considerable national economy.

Norway had a new Library Act brought into force with effect from the beginning of 1949. This Act empowers the Director of Libraries to centralise most of the impersonal processes.

63 INTER-LIBRARY LOAN

631 Great Britain

Great Britain has set up an *ad hoc* body to promote inter-library loan. It is the National Central Library,

subsidised by the Government. It maintains a union catalogue for the holdings of all the participating libraries. It has also funds to buy books, beyond a certain price level, if they are not readily procurable by inter-library loan. It has regional centres associated with it. These regional centres maintain a cumulative catalogue for the libraries of the region and seek to meet demands by effecting inter-library loan within the region. It is only when a material is not procurable within the region that it passes the request on to the National Central Library in London. I visited some of the regional centres and studied their working in detail. They were all mostly under-staffed and their work was considerably in arrears. The accession reports are not always received. Even when they are received, they are not fully incorporated in the cumulative catalogue. It appeared to me that one of the causes for this was that the regional library is a redundant body. It would be more efficient and there will be no duplication and waste if the National Central Library deals with all cases of inter-library loan directly. While discussing this with the authorities concerned, I learned that it was only tradition and some sense of local prestige, which have already established themselves within a short period of two decades, that were responsible for the perpetuation of the regional system. Under the influence of the proposal made in England for regional libraries in 1927, I myself had provided for regional libraries in my *Model library act* of 1930. But later thought made me conjecture that these would be like fifth wheels and I omitted them in the later versions of the Model Public Library Bill. This conjecture of mine was confirmed by what I was now able to observe in the working of the regional libraries of England.

6311 Description

Here is an account of the National Central Library:

"The National Central Library was founded in 1916 as

the Central Library for Students. In 1930 it was reconstituted as the National Central Library, and on 21st April, 1931 His Majesty King George V signed the Royal Charter of Incorporation. Its original purpose, that of providing books for organised classes for adult education, has since been extended, so that it is now not only a great lending library itself but also the recognised centre for loan, between libraries of all kinds both within Great Britain and abroad, of books for study which cannot be obtained in any other way. It has also become the main centre for the supply of information about books both for national and for international purposes, and for the reception and allocation of duplicate and 'unwanted' books to suitable libraries, including war-damaged ones, at home and abroad.

"The Library lends from its own stock books in print, published at not less than eight shillings, on all subjects, with the following exceptions: books which are available at the local library, works of fiction, and the set text-books required for examinations. In addition, it is in a position to obtain from other libraries a very large percentage of those books which it is unable to supply from its own shelves. It has, in this way, access to about twenty-one million volumes as well as many thousand sets of periodicals. Among the books supplied are highly specialised or expensive books and periodicals which the borrowing library would not be justified in buying, even if it could afford to do so; scarce and out-of-print books, in some cases books of considerable age, rarity, and value; foreign books of which no copies are available in this country; the back volumes of periodicals; and photographic copies of manuscripts and rare printed books which cannot be lent.

"The Library is the centre of the system of regional library co-operation which now covers the whole of the country, and which has been developed in the lines suggested by the Departmental Committee on Public Libraries in 1927. It is also the centre for co-operation and the inter-lending of books between University and specialised libraries (known as 'Outlier Libraries') from which it is able to borrow books. These union catalogues already contain well over 1,750,000 entries.

"Persons desirous of obtaining books from the National Central Library must apply to the librarian of their local, university, or special library. If the address of this library is not known, it will be supplied on application to the Librarian of the National Central Library, Malet Place, London, W.C.I."

Here are some facts and figures, most of which relate to 1947-48:

6312 *Issues*

Nature of Libraries	Number of volumes lent
Urban libraries	33,442
County libraries	15,013
University libraries	8,655
Special outlier libraries	6,581
Imperial and foreign libraries	325
Libraries of Government Departments, Research and Industrial Organisations, etc.	7,823
Adult classes	12,652
Army Education Scheme	55
Individual readers direct	343
	<hr/>
Total Issues	84,889
	<hr/>

6313 *Outlier Libraries*

One of the main sources on which the National Central Library is able to rely for the borrowing of specialised literature is the group of 'Outlier Libraries', comprising the leading libraries devoted to books on special subjects and a number of research institutions. These libraries, which do not in general participate in the regional library systems, lend such books as are available and for which specific requests are made through the agency of the National Central Library. There were 189 libraries in the list of outlier libraries. Their list is given showing after each library the year in which it became an outlier library and the number of books lent by it during a year, to show incidentally the range covered by the Business Library System of England:—

Name of the Library	Year of becoming an outlier library	No. of books lent in a year
Allen and Hanburys, Limited, Ware ..	1946	—
Anthroposophical Society (Rudolf Steiner Library) ..	1942	34
Architectural Association ..	1944	7
Association for Moral and Social Hygiene ..	1929	17
Austin Motor Company, Limited, Birmingham ..	1944	8
Barnett House, Oxford ..	1942	—
Batley Public Library (Col- lection on Woollen Textiles)	1949	1
Bibliographical Society ..	1939	—
British Boot, Shoe and Allied Trades Research Associa- tion ..	1930	9
British Cast Iron Research Association, Birmingham ..	1930	3
British Ceramic Research Association ..	1930	2
British Cotton Industry Re- search Association, Man- chester ..	1930	52
British Drama League ..	1927	145
British Electrical and Allied Industries Research Associ- ation ..	1946	137
British Film Institute ..	1947	6
British Food Manufactur- ing Industries Research Association ..	1947	3
British Institute of Adult Education ..	1927	1
British Launderers' Research Association ..	1930	31
British Leather Manufac- turers' Research Association	1930	17
British Medical Association ..	1928	457
British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association ..	1930	245
British Optical Association ..	1926	79

Name of the Library	Year of becoming an outlier library	No. of books lent in a year
British Paper and Board Industry Research Association	1947	—
British Post-graduate Medical School ..	1938	130
British Scientific Instrument Research Association ..	1946	47
British Social Hygiene Council	1939	15
Buddhist Society, London	1943	10
Cambridge Philosophical Society	1934	120
Cement and Concrete Associa- tion ..	1944	1
Chartered Insurance Institute	1947	2
College of Aeronautics, Cran- field ..	1946	98
College of Preceptors ..	1931	—
Commonwealth Relations Office	1937	203
Co-operative Reference Library	1927	5
Courtauld Institute of Art ..	1934	60
Department of Animal Health, Aberystwyth ..	1946	—
Devon and Exeter Institution, Exeter ..	1933	4
Distillers Company, Limited, Epsom ..	1947	5
Elliott Brothers (London) Ltd., Research Laboratories, Bore- hamwood ..	1947	14
Empire Tea Bureau ..	1943	—
Eugenics Society ..	1944	19
Evans Biological Institute, Run- corm ..	1943	—
Express Dairy Company, Ltd. ..	1946	2
Folk-lore Society ..	1927	5
French Hospital Library (in- cluding the Library of the Huguenot Society of London)	1927	1
French Institute ..	1938	126
Geographical Association, Man- chester ..	1925	—
Guildhall Library ..	1943	8
Hannah Dairy Research Insti- tute, Ayr ..	1932	16

Name of the Library	Year of becoming an outlier library	No. of books lent in a year
Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Councils ..	1947	2
Historical Association ..	1935	17
Horniman Museum ..	1930	35
Howard League for Penal Re- form ..	1928	49
Hudson Institute ..	1948	—
Imperial Bureau of Agricultural Parasitology, St. Albans ..	1937	12
Imperial Institute of entomo- logy ..	1936	201
Institute for the Scientific Treat- ment of Delinquency ..	1943	2
Institute of Chartered Account- ants ..	1938	30
Institute of Marine Engineers	1945	2
Institute of Sociology ..	1927	6
Institute of Welding ..	1941	11
Iron and Steel Institute, and Institute of Metals ..	1930	125
Jews' College ..	1932	32
King's College of Household and Social Science ..	1924	—
Lambeth Palace Library ..	1930	—
Leggett, Dr. Bernard: Library of Radiological Periodicals	1938	—
Linen Industry Research Asso- ciation, Belfast ..	1930	5
Linnean Society of London ..	1927	269
Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle-upon-Tyne	1929	625
Liverpool Medical Institution	1934	175
London and National Society for Women's Service ..	1927	259
London County Council Edu- cation Library ..	1934	121
London School of Economics and Political Science ..	1925	634
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine ..	1928	526
Management Library ..	1928	69
Manchester Library for Deaf Education ..	1925	13

Name of the Library	Year of becoming an outlier library	No. of books lent in a year
Manchester Literary and Philo- sophical Society ..	1926	—
Metal Box Company, Limited	1946	11
Meteorological Office Library	1934	8
Middlesex Probation Service Staff Library ..	1942	—
Motor Industry Research Asso- ciation, Brentford ..	1941	19
Mount Saint Bernard Abbey, Charnwood Forest, Leicester- shire ..	1940	41
National Book League ..	1929	10
National Council for Maternity and Child Welfare ..	1930	1
National Institute of Economic and Social Research ..	1938	15
National Institute of Industrial Psychology ..	1927	64
National Liberal Club ..	1938	2
National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth ..	1922	256
National Operatic and Drama- tic Association ..	1931	26
New Commonwealth Library ..	1934	—
Norfolk and Norwich Library, Norwich ..	1934	20
North Devon Athenaeum, Bar- nataple ..	1936	16
Office of the High Commissioner for India ..	1928	29
Personnel Administration ..	1946	11
Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain ..	1932	26
Pilkington Brothers, Limited, St. Helens ..	1947	—
Plymouth Proprietary Library	1940	—
The Polytechnic ..	1937	202
Priaultx Library, Guernsey ..	1938	5
Printing, Packaging and Allied Trades Research Association	1937	25
Quarr Abbey, Isle of Wight ..	1938	30

Name of the Library	Year of becoming an outlier library	No. of books lent in a year
Reform Club Library (Pamphlet collection only) ..	1929	—
Regent Advertising Club ..	1934	—
Research Association of British Flour Millers ..	1930	46
Research Association of British Paint, Colour, and Varnish Manufacturers ..	1930	44
Research Association of British Rubber Manufacturers, Croydon ..	1930	40
Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden ..	1925	176
Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen ..	1923	4
Royal Aeronautical Society ..	1922	24
Royal Anthropological Institute ..	1924	88
Royal Asiatic Society ..	1928	88
Royal College of Nursing ..	1922	147
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons ..	1925	—
Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh ..	1941	29
Royal Dublin Society ..	1931	109
Royal Empire Society ..	1929	197
Royal Entomological Society of London ..	1930	142
Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, Penzance ..	1938	1
Royal Horticultural Society ..	1928	61
Royal Infirmary, Bradford (Pathological Department) ..	1943	—
Royal Institute of International Affairs ..	1925	220
Royal Irish Academy, Dublin ..	1927	160
Royal Microscopical Society ..	1928	23
Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain ..	1947	18
Royal Sanitary Institute ..	1945	66
Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Edinburgh ..	1928	9

Name of the Library	Year of becoming an outlier library	No. of books lent in a year
Royal Scottish Society of Arts, Edinburgh ..	1923	—
Royal Veterinary College ..	1945	15
St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College	1946	24
St. Bride Foundation Libraries	1932	118
St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School	1936	67
School of Agriculture, Cam- bridge ..	1931	146
School of Geography, Oxford	1945	8
School of Oriental and African Studies ..	1931	68
School of Slavonic and East European Studies ..	1936	108
Science Library ..	1926	1,881
Scottish Marine Biological Asso- ciation, Millport, Bute ..	1923	7
Selly Oak College, Birmingham	1934	40
Societies for the Promotion of Hellenic and Roman Studies	1930	72
Society for Psychical Research	1927	66
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts	1932	57
Society of Antiquaries of London	1926	3
Society of Friends	1928	12
Society of Genealogists ..	1942	—
Solon Ceramic Library, Stoke- on-Trent ..	1923	119
South-West Essex Technical Col- lege and School of Arts, Walthamstow ..	1947	80
Swedenborg Society ..	1933	1
Technical Service Library ..	1943	1
Textile Institute, Manchester	1944	36
Theosophical Society in Eng- land	1927	143
United Nations Association ..	1925	64
Warbug Institute ..	1934	150
West of Scotland Agricultural College, Glasgow ..	1937	37
Wiener Library ..	1946	228

Name of the Library	Year of becoming an outlier library	No. of books lent in a year
Wigan District Mining and Technical College, Wigan	1938	111
Dr. William's Library	1926	852
Wool Industries Research Asso- ciation, Leeds	1930	13
Woolwich Polytechnic ..	1946	—
Wye College, Wye, Kent ..	1929	16
Total		12,127

6314 Regional Libraries

The following table gives the names of the regional systems and, against each, the year of foundation and the number of books lent within the region as inter-library loan:—

Name of the system	Year of foundation	No. of co-opera- ting libraries	No. of books lent
Northern ..	1931	42	5,372
West Midland ..	1931	55	18,381
Wales ..	1932	77	55,572
South Eastern ..	1933	78	41,731
East Midland ..	1935	56	14,731
North Western ..	1935	94	15,444
Yorkshire ..	1935	48	4,996
South Western ..	1936	49	16,816
Scotland ..	1945	62	1,549
		561	174,592
London ..	1929	28	18,618
		589	193,210

6315 *International Loan*

The National Central Library handles also international Inter-library Loan. Towards the expenses of this work the British Council gives an annual grant of about Rs. 20,000. The Council's Books Departments in foreign countries also help in the implementing of the loan wherever necessary. International borrowing is only put into operation when no copy of the book required is available in the country where it is needed, and for this reason, among others, applications are not normally dealt with unless they are forwarded through the applicant's national library centre.

Name of the country	No. of books borrowed by foreign libraries	No. of books borrowed by British library
	3	—
Austria ..	2	5
Belgium ..	13	12
Bulgaria ..	7	—
Czechoslovakia ..	4	1
Denmark ..	46	2
Egypt ..	—	1
Finland ..	5	—
France ..	30	7
Holland ..	24	5
Hungary ..	69	—
Italy ..	25	10
Norway ..	4	1
Palestine ..	4	—
South Africa ..	9	—
Spain ..	4	1
Sweden ..	18	3
Switzerland ..	50	33
Syria ..	2	—
U.S.S.R. ..	1	—
Yugoslavia ..	—	1
Total ..	320	82

6316 *Finance*

From the very beginning the Carnegie United Kingdon Trust has been the chief benefactor. During the last 32 years the Trust had donated a total sum of about 20 lakhs of rupees. As it is well known, it is not the policy of this Trust to contribute indefinitely to the maintenance of established institutions. Its grant will therefore be discontinued from 1950-51. The Regional Libraries find it difficult to continue their contributions. Though the annual Government grant has been increased to about 2½ lakhs of rupees, it is found that other sources of supplementing this income are contracting and it is asked that the National Central Library should be maintained by State funds. The resolution of the National Committee on Regional Library Co-operation on the subject is as follows:—

“That the Treasury be asked to give annually to the National Central Library:

- (a) a sum sufficient to cover the full needs of the National Central Library, including the contributions now given by libraries either through the Regions or directly to the National Central Library;
- (b) a further sum to be allocated by the National Central Library, to the Regions, according to the advice of the National Committee on Regional Library Co-operation.”

There cannot be a more convincing proof than this experience of the National Central Library for England, of the soundness of the recommendation contained in my *memorandum* that the National Bureau for Inter-library Loan of India should become a part of its National Central Library.

64 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF PUBLICATIONS

The United States had long ago established an *ad hoc* body for handling international exchange. It is the Smithsonian Institution. The general feeling in all

countries is that the time-lag caused by this agency is intolerable. The Unesco is actively engaged in investigating this question and promoting the formation of suitable national agencies for the purpose. I was invited to attend a conference on the subject convened by the Unesco at Paris in July 1948. But I was unable to go to it as I had to attend the Universities Congress which met on the same dates at Oxford. I had, however, an opportunity to examine the background documents and formulate my opinion. I heard that this was duly communicated to the conference. It was very humiliating for me as a visitor from India to hear of the difficulties experienced by the Bureaus for International Exchange maintained in the different countries I visited—difficulties due to the absence in India of any proper agency to co-operate with them on a basis of reciprocity. The Bureau of one of the countries, for example, showed me several packets accumulated for Indian destinations. It could find nobody in India to receive and distribute them within the country—let alone collecting the gifts of learned bodies and authors in India and transmitting them in exchange to the other countries. Hearing of my intended visit, he had kept the Indian file on the table so that it might catch my eye. A letter from one of the government-owned libraries had curtly said that it had no budget provision to handle them. On being asked who should be addressed, it had given the name of the appropriate Ministry. The Ministry's laconic reply contained the usual, meaningless, heartless formula "This is to acknowledge your letter No.—dated —". The officer asked me in despair what he could do. I said that the Superintendent of Stationery, Bombay, usually took care of such exchanges. "Why was I not told by the parties whom I addressed?" was the natural question. I evaded answering it, as my conjecture was that the Ministry in question was oblivious of this fact and had no interest in the question and that the government library, which is maintained as a costly ritualis-

tic appendage, knew no better and had no more interest in the circulation of knowledge than the Ministry from which alone it would draw inspiration, and to be on whose good looks it has to strive.

65 CONTACT LIBRARIES

651 United States

In my memorandum on the National Central Library, I had defined a Contact Library as a library to be maintained by one country in other countries for promotion of cultural contact without political or economic motive of any kind. The first formal step to secure this is to make such a library independent of the Embassy or the Trade Commissioner. The object is to make books messengers of light. In modern times the United States was the first country to sense the value of such a library contact. It did so for the first time after the First World War. Its first Contact Library was established in Paris. I had been longing to see its working and I was glad to have that opportunity. The very day I landed in Paris, I called at the American Library. It has become a very popular institution. It has about 50,000 volumes. It lends to 2,500 members, 50 of whom live outside Paris. The students of the Paris University use it largely.

The management of this library and similar libraries in other countries has been shifting from one Department to another; it was once entrusted to a large extent to the American Library Association; and it is now in the hands of the State Department. This Department is establishing Contact Libraries in several countries. In India, it has already established four such libraries.

652 Great Britain

Great Britain has entrusted the work of establishing contact libraries to an *ad hoc* body known as the British Council. I saw the libraries established by this

body in France and the Scandinavian countries. I also had a chance of seeing something of the organisation which the British Council has at its headquarters in London to discharge its responsibilities in the matter of Contact Libraries. Recently the Council has begun to establish contact libraries in India also.

653 Sweden

Sweden is just moving in the same direction.

654 India

Having seen all these *ad hoc* agencies, I am now satisfied that my recommendation to the Government of India, that the most competent authority to establish and manage our Contact Libraries abroad effectively and economically is the National Librarian, is along sound lines.

66 SEAFARERS' LIBRARY SERVICE

In Norway, the Department for Social Work promotes library service for seafarers. Ship-owners establish libraries and receive government grants for the purpose. Ships may exchange their books even in foreign ports which have Norwegian consulates.

CHAPTER 7

LIBRARY PROFESSION

71 LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

711 Great Britain

In the continental countries of Europe, the library profession is not fully integrated. The librarians of academic libraries and the public librarians keep clear of each other. It is not so in Great Britain and America. The British Library Association has grown considerably since I visited it in the 1920's. Besides a strong staff, it has now got three full-timed officers, two of whom belong to the library profession, and a full-timed librarian. It has got regional sections as well as special sections like University and Research Libraries Section. Owing to historical causes, the Aslib (Special Library Association) and the School Library Association are still remaining as independent bodies. I found, however, evidence of close co-operation with the first. The Association has a building of its own. It is very effective in helping library movement and improving the status of librarians. The Government seeks its advice and co-operation in all matters connected with library development plan. The Government seems to be at present in consultation with it in framing a new Library Act which can be put on the statute book in 1950—the year of the centenary of the first Library Act. In the meeting of the Council of the Association to which I was invited as a guest, I saw elaborate preparations being made to celebrate the centenary year in a worthy manner.

7111 *Talks*

I was invited to address the following meetings:

1. Librarians of London and its environs—a special meeting held at Chaucer House.
2. North of England Branch of the Library Association—a special meeting held at Newcastle.

3. University and Research Section of the Library Association—annual conference at Birmingham.
4. Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux—annual Conference at Leamington Spa.
5. The Aslib and the Society for Visiting Scientists—a joint meeting in London.

The address at the first mentioned meeting, as amplified by the address on *Philosophy of public librarianship* before the Unesco's International Library School (see section 723), was published in the *Indian Librarian* for December 1948. The subject of the address at the Birmingham Conference was *The Challenge of the field of knowledge*. The substance of this has been incorporated in the *Philosophy of library classification* being published at Copenhagen. The address at the last mentioned meeting has been published in the Aslib's organ *Journal of documentation* for March, 1949.

7112 General Impression

The following is the over-all general impression of the advance of libraries and the library profession of Great Britain which was recorded by me in the *Library Association record* at the request of the British Library Association.

"A quarter of a century ago I had the stimulating experience of wandering among the libraries of Great Britain. The variety I saw in technique, practices and outlook led to the formulation of the Laws of Library Science, the forging of the Colon Classification and the framing of the Classified Catalogue Code, among other attempts to evaluate library work.

71121 The Past

"Then. In those years, business libraries had not produced their impress on the library profession; the university and other academic bodies had not yet widely recognised the need to place their libraries in the hands of the library profession; it was only the public libraries that were dynamic in their outlook. But even here, a sweeping form of liberalism, which insisted on non-interference with individual enterprise, not only

in matters personal but also in matters purely impersonal and mechanical, had kept the public library outlook in its grip. The library was free to provide books and, if at all, see that people read; but it was not felt to be its province either to see what they read or how they read, still less to do anything to step up even by friendly suggestion the level of reading and to make it purposive, either at the personal or at the social level. There were just a few daring librarians, however, who occasionally interpreted their function to be more purposive and reasonable. Again, it was the book that was the unit of treatment and service in most cases. This had put a restriction on techniques like book-selection, classification and cataloguing, reference service (which is called Readers' Advisory Service) had not yet emerged as the penultimate stage in the fulfilment of the library whose ultimate stage is the integration of books and humans. Within these limitations there was evidence of considerable re-evaluation of practices leading to open access, re-designing of buildings and furniture and the institution of travelling libraries.

71122 *The Present*

"Now. This re-evaluation has made enormous progress. Travelling libraries bring books to the doors of practically all rural people. The new buildings are on the whole better lighted, more inviting and less rigid. Open access has gone still further, smashing down even the wicket-gates and replacing the cumbersome Victorian method of receiving over-due charges by what I have called the "Conscience Box". More academic libraries have come to be entrusted to professional librarians, though all university librarians have not yet been given the status and salary of the heads of department of research and teaching. It is perhaps too early for Library Science to have felt the results of the impact of university and other academic librarians. It pleased me, however, to find that these new arrivals and the old, more numerous public librarians have cast their lot together with the least opportunity for centrifugal forces to develop. I was very much concerned, however, that it was not so in regard to business librarians, who have grown considerably in number. The pressure from the business world is more compelling than that from academic bodies or from the public at large. The result is that business librarians feel more obliged to be dynamic, to shift the focus of their thought more rapidly, and to re-evaluate all the techniques and processes, and the very outlook.

"For example, reference service has come to be recognized as the centre about which everything else should be built. Thought unit has replaced the book as the ultimate unit for treatment and service. This replacement has shaken the existing classification schemes and procedure, cataloguing codes and procedure, and bibliographical practice and procedure.

"To keep this at the centre of attention, as it were, a new term, "Documentation Service" has come into currency. This term, however, has proved to be so efficient that it threatens to split the library profession at this moment of great change in the outlook of the profession. The older generation, more obsessed by past traditions, is intolerant of the acceleration of the pace. The new generation, on whom the pull of the future is greatest, is impatient with the tardiness of the pace. Between these two forces, the profession appears to be subjected to an over-powering rupture.

71123 *The Future*

"*Hereafter.* My optimism is rich enough to feel that this is only a passing phenomenon. I feel that it should be recognised by all concerned that the implications of the thought-unit replacing the book-unit, so far from causing a break in the profession, will lead to the ultimate emergence of an enriching diversification without loss of unity. The syllabus for professional training must be more diversified and be fitted with more alternatives to cover the special needs of special classes of libraries, in addition to providing a common core. The pattern of the examinations and question-papers should also reflect this diversification. Some papers on the fundamentals, like the Laws of Library Science, Physical Bibliography, Classification, Cataloguing and Reference Service will have to be common and compulsory. In some papers like those on Book-Selection, Administration, Organisation and Building and Equipment, there should be some compulsory questions covering the fundamental principles, and optional groups of questions with emphasis on particular classes of libraries. There should also be, in the Final examination, some alternative papers in addition to common ones. Back of all this, the term "books" must be replaced by "reading materials and kindred materials"—the kindred materials covering all sources capable of providing elevating relaxation, up-to-date information and wholesome inspiration by an approach through the mind, be it books or gramophone records, or pamphlets or leaflets, or even the living brains of living persons coming in for aid when recorded thought is not available.

"The Fifth Law, "A Library is a growing organism", is a profound one, underlining emergent evolution and dynamism as the outstanding eternal characteristics of the library and the profession which has charge of this multi-purpose social institution."

7113 *Maturity*

The level of discussion and questions after my lectures was of a higher order in England than in America. It showed the maturity of British library thought. The great awareness with which the younger generation of British librarians absorbs new ideas is shown by the following contribution sent to the Eighth All-India Library Conference by Messrs B. I. Palmer and A. J. Wells.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DR. RANGANATHAN'S BRITISH TOUR

"There can be no doubt about the impression which Dr. Ranganathan made on the Western Library World; it was one of originality and comprehensive ability. Wherever he went his audiences were captivated by his personality and fell victims to the charm of his exposition. His deep understanding of all the problems of librarianship at all levels was so great, that he was capable of explaining them in a way that all could grasp. Scientists, special and public librarians alike acknowledged his scholarship, and a vogue has begun in Britain to study his words more thoroughly.

71131 *Colon Study Group*

"As an example of this we notice, in a recent review of Sharp's *Cataloguing*, a reprimand for the author's omission of any reference to Chain Procedure, and the significant remark that in future students of cataloguing will be called upon to pay attention to this technique. Movements are afoot, too, for the formation of a Colon Study Group, and special librarians are asking for more detailed information on what we are beginning to call Colon Technique. Do not, however, leap to the hasty conclusion that a change to Colon Classification on a large scale is imminent: it is not. There are too many practical considerations of training and expense to permit of this. The number of persons interested in the new technique is very small indeed, but the amount of yeast that is put into

bread is small too. The interest shown is but a straw in the wind; but it is useful for seeing which way the wind is blowing. The likely extent of the influence on Western librarianship of Dr. Ranganathan's visit is hard to forecast, but it is not unreasonable to speculate.

71132 *Sloughed the Skin of Tradition*

"Certain points stand out, not only because Dr. Ranganathan has expressed them, but because he has expressed them clearly, and in doing so has sloughed the skin of tradition which had become an encumbrance: a skin which we in the West still wear, even though it frequently constricts our movements, and causes us to hesitate to undertake a line of action which intellectually we know to be desirable.

71133 *One-ness of Librarianship*

"Perhaps the biggest service the Doctor has done us has been to proclaim in no uncertain terms the essential one-ness of librarianship. In the West, and particularly on the continent of Europe, there is a strange attitude which sets learned librarianship and popular librarianship apart. It is as though the librarians take on tone from the objects of their work. Where this attitude prevails the essential point is always missed that librarianship is a technique by itself: it is an honourable craft and does not need the patronage of scholarliness to give it a false polish. In Britain the branches of librarianship are closer together, because the vital public library service has, in the past, given some of its men and women to state, special and university libraries. There is a better *de facto* relationship here than on the mainland of Europe; but there are those who see differences more easily than likenesses. This cannot happen in India, where the plan of library service is being laid down in advance, and India's example may yet be a light to guide the rest of the world.

71134 *Unity of Library Service*

"The second point that Dr. Ranganathan underlined was the essential unity of the library service in its attitude to the public. The tradition in the West has been one of the vertical divisions within each service—reflecting itself in the public library as division into periodical service, reference service and home-reading service. Forward-looking librarians over here have raised their voices in isolated protest. Dr. Savage, lately City Librarian of Edinburgh, is one of the liveliest protagonists

of the integrated library service. India's Dr. Ranganathan has considered this problem from his distant vantage point in a country where library provision is still mainly in the planning stage, and has arrived independently at the same conclusions as our own advanced librarians. His addresses to British audiences stressed again and again the one-ness of the service we offer. Information, he has said, is not to be sought along independent lines in reference works, with a sharp line drawn between them and periodicals: nor are books which are less obviously sources of information to be provided in another department for home-reading as an isolated phenomenon. Knowledge is one and indivisible. It is to be sought equally in reference and other works as well as periodicals. The seeker after knowledge is not concerned with the means, but only with the ends. The means are the librarian's concern.

71135 *Classification*

"The third point at which the Doctor's visit brought new light to an old subject is in systematic classification. The Colon Technique has been shown by him to contain the seeds of all future growth in this science: Not only at the level of notational flexibility is this true, but also at the deeper level of assignment of values to fundamental conceptions of arrangement. The way has been demonstrated for classifiers to take in making classification for subjects hitherto left to the vagaries of individual librarians. There has already been a practical outcome of this in the scheme nearing completion for a classification of the literature of Packing designed for use in the research library of the Metal Box Company. This is a new and growing subject of great value to the commercial world.

71136 *Catalogue*

"The fourth, and last, point where thought has been stimulated is in cataloguing. The unity of the processes of classification and cataloguing has been defined. These two tasks, which formerly were carried out in isolation, except where men with flair had instinctively seen them as one, have been shown to be but two aspects of the same task—the discovery of the specific subject and its relationship to other specific subjects and the revealing of the relationship to library users. As has been shown above, there is felt to be a need for the study of chain procedure in fixing subject-headings, coupled with a dissatisfaction, often vague and uninformed, with present methods of classification and cataloguing.

71137 *Fundamental Drives*

"Reviewing the work of the Doctor, as explained by him at meetings and in conversations, the outstanding impression is one of unity of thought. More than anything else, his message to us has been a suggestion that we should probe into greater depths to find the fundamental drives that form the basis of our tasks. Those who have not encountered the charm of his method of exposition are, perhaps, a little inclined to dismiss the fundamental ideas he expressed as "Oriental philosophy" but there are others who know better.

71138 *Watershed*

"Before ending let us emphasise once more that the number of persons concerned in this renaissance is small. A mere handful of men and women have more than a nodding acquaintance with his ideas and copies of his books are not widely available. Time will alter this, we are sure, and may be in another generation. British librarianship may look back on the summer of 1948 as the watershed which divides the old librarianship from the new."

7114 *Library Conditions in India*

The Staff Association of the Manchester Public Libraries invited the members of the Faculty of the Unesco International Library School. After speeches of welcome, each member of the Faculty was requested to make a statement about the library conditions in his own country. While the members from Belgium, Norway and the United States could describe what actually existed in their respective countries, I could only describe what we wished should exist in India. Here in the text of my speech:—

"Let me first offer you and the British people the gratefulness of the Indian people and myself for the sympathy expressed through the Chairman for the irreparable loss sustained by us by the untimely loss of two illustrious sons of India—Mahatma Gandhi and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who are the fathers of India and Pakistan. Let me also congratulate the British nation on the good luck which usually falls to its share at the right moment. Its good luck this time was that it sent Lord Mountbatten as the last British Governor-General to India. By their unusual human qualities which included

sociability, sympathy and absence of high-brow or conventional coldness and rigidity, the Mountbattens have so healed all the sense of bitterness engendered in the past that there is not much talk about stepping out of the great commonwealth to which we both belong along with other sister nations.

"Unlike what happened elsewhere, library movement is developing in India from top to bottom—so to speak; it is university and research libraries that were first developed. We have about twenty of them and a few of them are second to none in quality though not in quantity.

"Speaking of the public library, we owe its beginning in India to the late ruler of Baroda. While wandering in America, he was so immensely impressed by the public library system of the United States that he brought an American librarian back with him and established a State-wide library system in Baroda by an executive order. It has so developed that books are now within easy reach of about 85% of the people.

"In the other parts of India, the library movement met with apathy and even obstruction. The apathy was due to the fact that the Indian community was only just awakening after its centuries of sleep and exhaustion. The obstruction came from the authority. As early as 1930, the Indian renaissance began to throw out its first rays and the Library Service Section of the First All Asia Educational Conference which met in Benares approved and commended to the governments of the land a Model Library Act framed by me.

"A few years later, we members of the Madras Library Association persuaded one of us—Mr. Basheer Ahmed—not a librarian though—who was a member of the Madras legislature, to introduce a library bill. It was introduced and taken to the end of the select committee stage with great enthusiasm as the majority of the local bodies had expressed their willingness—nay, eagerness—to work the library act. But at the final stage in the legislature, the bill was obstructed with all vehemence by the government. One of its spokesmen, a member of the Indian Civil Service, made a fantastic demand. If the bill became an act, the Department of Local Self-government of the Government would be obliged to do additional correspondence with the Local Bodies on library matters. This would mean extra cost for the government. The Government will not therefore allow the bill to become an act unless a section was introduced making it obligatory for all the Local Bodies to contribute to the Government Treasury the sum necessary to meet the cost of stationery, postage and personnel

necessary! The Madras Library Association did not want to set up a precedent in the Library World and thought it wise not to take the bill further under such fantastic conditions.

"We had to wait till we got our independence last year to take up library development ourselves. Last year, Madras got for its Education Minister a young man who had, like most of our ministers, spent many years behind prison bars. Mr. Avinasalingam Chettiar, the Minister of Education, who had experienced a good library service both as a student and as a patriot behind prison bars, had always shown interest in library provision for the people. Shortly after he became Minister, our conversation naturally turned on the fulfilment of his long-cherished library desires and he readily accepted the library bill which I had ready in hand. I am glad to say that it is about to become law—the first Library Act in India.

"The act creates a Department of Library Science with a Director at its head. The Director of Libraries and the Director of Education will be like the two hands of the Minister of Education and they will maintain the educational system of the State—formal and informal—as a broad highway along which every citizen can travel with profit and pleasure from his childhood on to his old age. Similar library bills are being drafted for other constituent states.

"The Act makes the Borough Council of all cities with a population of 50,000 or more a Library Authority. There is provision for Library Committees and for branch libraries for every 25,000 of people. All other urban areas are obliged to come for library purposes under the County Council within whose area they lie. The County Councils will maintain a branch library in each town, i.e. places whose population lies between 5,000 and 50,000. They will maintain travelling libraries, to serve the villages and hamlets. The Act also provided for a State Central Library with copyright privileges, to act as a reservoir and as an agency for inter-library loans. The money is to be got partly by local rates and partly by State grant.

"India and Pakistan taken together will ultimately—say, by 1980—have 154 city library systems; 321 rural library systems and about two dozen State Central Libraries, manned by about 120,000 members of the library profession. The 80,000 villages and the 600,000 hamlets will be served once a fortnight by about 14,000 travelling libraries each carrying an assorted collection of 2,000 books, with trained librarians to help readers.

"The National Central Library will be established by the Union Government at Delhi. It will have All-India copyright privileges; it will have the National Bureau of Bibliography; it will be the agency for co-operative or centralised classification and cataloguing. Our coming into the library field nearly a hundred years after you, gives us an advantage which we want to turn to good account. You have grown casually and developed many wasteful traditions. Imagine, for example, a thousand of your libraries wasting their staff-time in classifying and cataloguing a thousand copies of the self-same book at the self-same time. Our intention is to keep ahead of you in this and other matters. We propose to have all books classified and catalogued even when they are at the pre-natal stage. Forme-proofs will be released by the publisher with the Call Number—shall I say, the Colon Number—printed at the back of the title page and tooled on the spine. Further every copy of the book taken by a library will carry within it the necessary number of printed unit catalogue cards. The staff released from this repetitive work in the various libraries will be turned on to the most essential work of reference service, of establishing contact between the right reader and the right book, with personal discrimination, of promoting, shall I say, a happy marriage between the books and the humans."

712 United States

The American Library Association is truly a giant association. Its membership is about 17,000. It has a staff of about 33. It does its work through 22 Boards, Committees and Round Tables. Its annual budget is now about 12 lakhs of rupees for its normal work. In the earlier years, it was helped by liberal grants from trusts like the Carnegie Corporation and Rockefeller Foundation. It now receives considerable sums of money—nearly 20 lakhs of rupees every year—from these bodies and the Government for working out specified projects of national and international magnitude. I found it making elaborate preparations in association with the National Central Library (the Library of Congress) for the celebration of its own 75th anniversary and of the 150th anniversary of the latter in 1950. It has invited the International Federation of Library Associations to meet in America at the time. I was

impressed by the confidence with which the President-Designate of the Association for 1950 told me that they would make an excellent job of the festival of that year.

7121 *News Value*

In the United States the profession has well established itself. The members have a more cheerful and hopeful outlook than elsewhere. They are also more numerous. It commands greater recognition and respect in public life than in other places. My tour, for example, was most publicised in Sweden; but the general urge for it appears to have been more my being an Indian than a librarian—my coming from the land of Mahatma Gandhi and of Vedas. Indeed, when I called on the ninety year old Axel Munthe, the author of the well-known story of *San Michele* and a friend and physician of the king, he equated India with Gandhi and in speaking about his powerful personality referred to an amusing incident. A European lady had offered to be his private secretary several years ago. After a few weeks' trial, he dismissed her as a never-do-well. But some years later she wrote to him from India with an uncanny display of wisdom, self-confidence and magnanimity saying that her living in the presence of Mahatma Gandhi had transformed her. He said that that was a measure of the potency of India. The librarian of the Royal Library uttered a few Vedic words and welcomed me as coming from the land of Yajnavalkya. The reporters, who called daily, were collecting news only about India in general and my impressions about Swedish life and organisation in general. In England the International Summer School arranged (on its own initiative, I think) for a press-conference. There was hardly any active eliciting on the part of the press-representatives. Virtually they took in a passive manner, the statements voluntarily made by each of us—the members of the Faculty. But it was not so in the United States. The Press sought me on its own initiative. It sought me as

librarian. It elicited news and views of purely library import. Here is an example of what they seem to have cabled to India. Of this, I came to know long after my return.

"Washington (by cable)—Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, internationally known librarian from the University of Delhi, here on a visit to Library of Congress, expressed great interest in the mechanical devices invented by U.S. librarians to speed up their work. He was also impressed by the "colossal size" of the Congressional Library and its "wonderful collections". He commented "Here I have seen Indian legal books which I have not seen in India". However he predicted that the present cataloguing system now being used in the United States, Dictionary Catalogue, will inevitably give way to the Classified Catalogue and he emphasised that it will have to absorb the Classified Catalogue Code of which he is the inventor. Dr. Ranganathan, who is the President of the Indian Library Association and Fellow of the Library Association of England, has written 34 books on Library Science and is the exponent of the Five Laws of Library Science detailed in one of his books. He has also invented the Colon Classification. The eminent visitor visited the New York Public Library while in that city recently attending a meeting of the Librarians Commission of the United Nations. Of the New York Public Library he said, "I have seen libraries in many countries now; but this one has one of the finest collections I have ever seen. It also has the best service. Here I have seen the greatest number of readers present at one time." He also visited the Library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and described it as "quite alive" and very fast in getting new publications to the users. "The Army Medical Library", which he visited, "has the biggest collection of medical books in the world" he said. To these specialised libraries, the Indian specialist recommended "a throwing off of the traditional shackles in their classification methods. "The new concept of libraries as presented in the United Nations meetings is that of a river of flowing thought", he said, "Every nation must have its "tank" libraries where everything collects, but he recommended, most other libraries should be constantly changing, discarding those volumes not in great use." Dr. Ranganathan will visit the Yale University Library. He will teach during September in the International Library School in Manchester and London and will attend the International Federation of Library Associations in London, September, 20-24. The distinguished librarian will return to India October 1 (U.S.C.S.)".

The significance of the difference between the United States and the other countries including Great Britain is that the Library profession has begun to have in America even news value like any other profession. The public value it and expect it to be featured. In the Delhi Press, on the contrary, it is all a case of "His master's voice", the Master being the Political Part of the Government. Political and sensational news alone have a chance. Even the meeting of an All-India Library Conference—let alone the visit of a distinguished foreign librarian—has no news value and is left severely alone by the daily press.

7122 *Learned Profession*

The fact that the American Council of Learned Societies met me, a mere librarian, at dinner at Washington is a measure of the stature that the library profession has attained in America in the eyes of the other learned professions.

7123 *Hospitality Arrangement*

I was able to sense the fine and agile organisation which the profession has set up in the United States, while I witnessed the effortless, smooth and natural way in which they arranged to meet me at several lunches, dinners and talks. At the lunch of the International Relations Committee given at the Library of Congress, I was moved to describe this arrangement of hospitality in the words of the Rishyasringa Upakhyana of the *Mahabharata*. Since the Americans do practise organised hospitality to a finish even as the king of Anga had done in his arrangement to conduct Vibhandaka from the forest to his kingdom, our American friends appear to have been very much impressed with this Mahabharata episode. For, one of the gentlemen who was present at the lunch came to India later. When we met at Delhi, the first thing he talked about was the Rishyasringa Upakhyana.

Not only a high place in public estimate and not only high-grade organisation but also a professional awareness and a loyalty to Library Science characterise our colleagues in the land of libraries.

7124 *Address at Library of Congress*

At 8-30 p.m. on 12th August 1948, the Library of Congress had arranged for a talk by me at its Whittall Pavilion. As usual I began writing out my speech after coming home. It was already midnight when I could begin writing. As I had an early engagement in the morning, I had to postpone completing it. But when I reached the Whittall Pavilion at 11 next morning for the conference on library classification and cataloguing, I found a crowded audience listening to a talk. In a few minutes I recognised my own words in it. The Ag. Librarian of Congress told me that it was my talk that was being played. Without my knowledge they had recorded it as I was delivering my speech on the previous night. This made me give up completing the writing of my speech. Though a set of the plates have reached my hands, I have not yet been able to play them and copy out the full speech. Therefore, it is only the fragment that I had written out that I am able to reproduce here. It is as follows:—

71241 *Rhythm of Life*

"Rhythm and periodicity form an unmistakable feature of life-process. In the vital or bodily level, there are various cycles. But the most dominant one appears to be day—the period of rotation of the earth on its axis. At the mental level, the dominant cycle appears to be the year—the period of the earth's motion round the sun. This rhythm is in addition to an over-all progression; with the result we may say that life is a helical motion rather than a cyclic one. For, the compound of a translation and a rotation is a helical motion. But we are now concerned with the cyclic component only.

71242 *National Rhythm*

"Rhythm and periodicity form an unmistakable feature of social process too. The life of a social group, such as a nation, has also a periodicity. It sleeps, it wakes up, it is active, it creates and it again goes to sleep. When we dig into its history, we find fallow periods as well as active periods. The active periods are represented by the deposits of its creative achievements—in poetry, music, sculpture, architecture and inventions of all kinds. Looking into the long history of India, the oldest deposits are the Vedas, whose age is yet undetermined. The latest deposits are about a thousand years old. Sankara, Ramanuja and Madhva were the chief names. About 900 A.D., Indian society entered the latest sleeping phase of its life.

71243 *India's Sleep*

"It was in deep sleep during the last 500 years. The result was that many others entered India and pitched up their tents. Those who entered when she was awake were absorbed. Those who entered when she was sleeping exploited the fact that she was sleeping and went back home.

"During the last 500 years of India's sleep, the world has made enormous progress. Printing was invented. It led to democracy or equal opportunity for knowledge. In about four centuries after the invention of printing, the nations that were awake began to work towards universal literacy and perpetual self-education. In those countries education has now become compulsory; and as a necessary corollary, a public library system has been established; and during the last two decades the library, organised as a substation for the transformation of thought-energy, has become a part of every academic and industrial and business concern.

71244 *India's Awakening*

"All these developments, India has missed. But during the last thirty years, there have been signs of India waking up. I can say that she has now definitely entered the waking phase. She is beginning her new life. She is re-born. Though older than you in the number of cycles she has gone through, she is a baby and you are a veteran in the present cycle! She has all the impatience of a new-born. When Clapp and myself were children, we accepted the bullock-cart and the horse-carriage as tolerable and the railway transport as the most up-to-date. But to Clapp's son and my son, a bullock-cart is a museum exhibit. They are impatient with the slowness of

the car and the train. They talk already of supersonic speed. My son would like to take off from Delhi at 10 A.M. and join the junior Clapp in Washington in two hours leaving the sun far, far behind. Young India is now in that mood. She finds how much she has lagged behind others. She realises that she has to begin her race to catch them, first in literacy, education and library provision. Let me now confine myself to library provision.

71245 *Thirty Year Programme*

"She examines the history of the subject in the countries which have been awake during the last 100 years. She finds that library movement had developed in them in a casual way which has led to many wasteful traditions and practices. They do not see it themselves as the player does not see the play. But as an on-looker she sees it with ease and she works out an accelerated library development plan. She plans to leap ahead of others in about thirty years by an eclectic design of her library grid. She sees the futility of blind imitation. She adapts Western practices to suit her physical, social and mental ecology. Let me now describe her thirty-year plan in library matters. . . ."

71246 *Official Account*

The following account taken from the *Information Bulletin* (17-23 August 1948) of the Library of Congress may also be of interest:

"Professor S. R. Ranganathan spoke feelingly of the background for the library movement in India and of the plans in some details for the establishment and organisation of a National Central Library at New Delhi, the capital of India, and of the proposed relationship to libraries throughout that Dominion. There was emphasis on plans for eventual library service as nearly as possible to everyone of a population of more than two and a half times that of the United States.

"His remarks flowed from the fullness of his experience. For many years he was librarian of the University of Madras in South India. As the result of his experience, he has contributed greatly to the literature of library science over a period of about 20 years. . . . He was active in the origination of the Madras Library Association, and in the development of library plans in the province of Madras. For about two years he was librarian of the Benares Hindu University. He is now professor and Head of the Department of Library Science

of Delhi University, and is actively engaged as a participant in the elaboration of plans for the proposed Indian National Central Library. Professor Ranganathan is president of the Indian Library Association, and had come to England for the period June to September this year as guest of the British Council."

7125 *Cataloguers' Group Conference*

The above lecture was over by 10 p.m. During the free movement after it, some of the audience wished to discuss "Cataloguing" with me. My host agreed to this. To my surprise I found the same hall again filled at 11 next morning with cataloguers and classifiers—the largest audience of such specialists I have ever seen or addressed. Perhaps, Washington is the spot on earth where the density of classifiers and cataloguers is greatest. The eagerness on their part to come to the meeting at such short notice was a measure of their loyalty to the technique they were daily practising. The bright, care-free, complacent faces with immense interest in the subject was such a contrast to an audience elsewhere. Here is a report of this meeting taken from the *Information Bulletin* of the Library of Congress.

"Dr. Ranganathan meets with cataloguers: About a hundred cataloguers from the cataloguing divisions of the Library, and from a number of other libraries, mainly Governmental, were inspired, informed, and entertained in turn by Professor S. R. Ranganathan at a special conference in the Whittall Pavilion on Friday, August 13, at 11-00 a.m. Having a particular concern for cataloguing and classification, Professor Ranganathan readily consented to a suggestion by Miss Morsch and myself that he met with the cataloguers and talk to them about problems of common interest.

"Since he was known to favour the classed as against the dictionary catalogue, he was asked to use a comparison of the two as his point of departure. He stated that the two types of catalogue propose to achieve the same ends and that both use the same logic, the dictionary catalogue substituting a system of references to make up for the logical structure of the classed catalogue. The latter derives its advantage not simply from its structure, but from the choice of the classification system. Using a blackboard, Professor Ranganathan

demonstrated the comprehensiveness and flexibility of the Colon Classification, which he has developed, as compared with the Dewey Decimal Classification. A study of successive links of the chain of the elements in the class number provided not merely an understanding of the class number, but also a key to the subject references which might be used in a dictionary catalogue.

"The meeting was presided over jointly by Miss Morsch, who introduced the speaker, and the reporter, who conducted the discussion period during which Professor Ranganathan answered questions and responded to comments from the floor. After the meeting, Professor Ranganathan remained to greet, and speak to, those cataloguers who wished to meet him in person."

713 Ifla

The International Federation of Library Associations met in London in the last week of September 1948 and I attended it as a delegate from India. I attended three of the section meetings.

7131 *Training of Personnel*

In the one on training of personnel, I convinced it that an altogether different approach to the problem was needed as one standard could not satisfy the situation but that at least three different standards would be necessary for the three strata—leaders, sub-leaders, and the rank and file. They proposed to bring it up again in 1950.

7132 *Exchange of Personnel*

The Committee on Exchange of Personnel accepted all my resolutions as the following extract from the *Actes* will show. "After some discussion resolutions proposed by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan and seconded by Mr. Cashmore were put to the meeting and carried unanimously." The following are the resolutions:

"1. That it be recommended that Ifla form a Bureau for International Exchange and Visits of Librarians.

"2. That in the first instance the Bureau collect information on the agencies—governmental, quasi-governmental (such

as the British Council) and private (such as Carnegie, Rockefeller and others)—which could give financial aid for such exchange, and bring the collected information to the notice of national library associations.

"3. That the Bureau seek to obtain the acceptance by such agencies of its services in arranging such exchanges and visits.

"4. That the Unesco be requested to give the necessary financial help to the Bureau.

"5. That the Unesco be thanked for its scheme to provide travelling fellowships for librarians and for its general scheme for the exchange of personnel which is understood to include librarians."

7133 *Cataloguing Code*

In the Committee on Cataloguing Code, there was lack of appreciation of linguistic groups other than the European. The resolution suggested by me was accepted: "It is recommended that special attention be given to the possibility of an agreement between different national groups belonging to the same linguistic family, as well as to the possibility of finding the basic principles applicable to all languages as *e.g.* for the cataloguing of official publications."

7134 *India's Statement*

The following statement was made by me at the final plenary session:

"1. *At the Union Level.*

"A committee, appointed by the Government of India, is now considering the establishment of the National Central Library.

"2. *At the level of constituent states.*

"The first Library Act in India has just been passed by the Government of Madras. Library bills are being framed and presented to the Governments of the other constituent States.

"3. *Training of Librarians.*

"When our Thirty-Year Library Programme is completed, we shall require 120,000 professional staff. There are

one-year post-graduate diploma courses in four universities. To train the leaders of the profession and the teachers of Library Science, with which we want to begin in covering India with a live grid of libraries by 1980, the University of Delhi has instituted a two-year post-graduate degree course leading to the B.Lib.Sc. Degree and we shall also train persons, in a further two-year course, for the Ph.D. degree in Library Science.

"4. *Publications.*

"As most of our books on library science are now in English, we are translating them into about ten regional languages. The Colon Classification is being prepared for its third edition. Some new notational devices recently discovered are helping us to fit it for documentation work even at the deepest level.

"5. *Conference.*

"Early in January, we shall be having our First Library Conference since India became independent. I should like to solicit the goodwill of Ifla and the various national Library Associations to be extended to that Conference. I suggest that it may take the form of a message or a substantial paper from the President of the Ifla and the representatives of the National Library Associations. All such messages and contributions may be sent to me as President of the Indian Library Association, University of Delhi, Delhi 2".

714 F. I. D.

7141 *Make-up of Periodicals*

At the Conference of the International Federation for Documentation, the draft put up by India formed the effective basis for the standard finally put up for the make-up of periodicals.

7142 *Classification*

The Octave Notation fully elaborated in India was officially adopted. I was also asked to give an address on Comparative Classification. This was apart from my Memorandum on *Library classification and international documentation* which was brought out by the F. I. D. on the eve of the Conference. The substance of this

speech has been incorporated in the *Philosophy of library classification* being published at Copenhagen.

7143 *National Committee on Documentation*

I was asked to attend the business meeting of the F. I. D. as an observer, as I could not be there as a full member since India had not yet joined the organisation. It was very humiliating; but the chairman passed on all my suggestions, officially in one way or other. This was not very edifying from our national point of view. The Indian Standards Institution has set up a Committee for Documentation and is prepared to affiliate it to the F. I. D. if the Ministry of Education would agree to the proposal. That Ministry's concurrence is sought because the intention of the I. S. I. is that its Committee should function as India's National Documentation Committee only till the National Central Library is established and takes charge of it as one of its limbs. The reply of the Ministry is yet to come.

715 Unesco

The first library organisation in which I spent considerable time was the Libraries Department of the Unesco. After a long discussion with the Head of the Department, I visited the Division of International Exchange. The head of the Division invited me to attend a Conference on International Exchange. I had intended to attend it and so I studied the papers with considerable care. But unfortunately, its dates coincided with those of the Commonwealth Universities Congress and I was therefore unable to go. However, at the request of the Director, I sent my views which I was told were read at the Conference. The lunch given by the Unesco gave me an opportunity to know the prominent persons in the library field at Paris. One of the evenings, I gave an address on "Library Classification without blackboard". The substance of this lecture has

been incorporated in the *Philosophy of library classification* being published at Copenhagen.

The authorities of the Unesco felt that India could contribute effectively in library matters if I could be sent by India as one of its delegates to their annual meeting. The Director of the Unesco wrote to the Indian representative on this subject accordingly.

716 International Advisory Committee of Library Experts

I was one of the seven members invited to serve on the International Advisory Committee of Library Experts of the United Nations, the other countries represented being Great Britain, United States, Chile, France, Egypt and China. I was elected chairman of the Sub-committee on General Library Policy. The report has been published by the United Nations. The following is an important statement made by me at the plenary session opposing the institution of "contract services" with other libraries according to which the New York Public Library and other libraries could be asked to allow the use of their holdings to the United Nations on *ad hoc* payment. I suggested an amendment to the proposal substituting "Consultants" for "Libraries". The proposition is given in the form so amended as the first succeeding paragraph.

7161 *Proposed Amended Proposition*

"The U.N. Library may, whenever it is necessary or expedient, secure contractual services by entering into contracts with *ad hoc* consultants for collecting reference and bibliographical data on specific subjects from the resources of other libraries".

7162 *Text of the 'Speech'*

"The consideration for the contractual service will have to be monetary. But it is essential that no occasion should be created for any library to give its service to any individual—personal or corporate—on the basis of "so much money, so

much service". The Anglo-American world, for example, has succeeded after a century's arduous thinking and living in this matter in setting up the principle that service of a library should be free. This I regard as the Library Magna Charta for which the world is indebted to Anglo-American countries. I know how difficult it is even now in some other countries in Europe and Asia to shake off what may be described as the old, old, tradition of inserting a money-sieve between the resources of a library and its potential consumers. Indeed human nature seems to have a heavy gravitation towards every kind of tradition which brings in 'bargain' of one kind or another. This Committee must be extremely on the alert to see that no element in the policy it recommends puts the unique U.N. Library in a position that may be interpreted as helping perpetuation of that gravitation, directly or obliquely and, knowingly or unknowingly. Perhaps this gravitation has been eliminated for so long and so efficiently in the Anglo-American nations that they even fail to recognise it when it appears in a slightly disguised form. But the library profession practising in other countries is daily coming up against it and is very apprehensive of the repercussion of "contracts with libraries on *ad hoc* monetary basis" on the fate of the Library Magna Charta in the world at large. It will set the clock back. This must be avoided. I would appeal to this Committee of Library Experts to resist outright whenever the "service for payment" spirit begins to appear among libraries in an apparently innocent form.

"The formula set forth in the first paragraph of this memorandum appears to my mind to give freedom to the U.N. Library to secure *ad hoc* hands to explore materials in other libraries without any violence to the Library Magna Charta. It will give freedom to employ part-time consultants. As such consultants will be able men in the library profession, they can dig into the resources of any library without causing undue additional strain on its staff. Indeed in some cases the consultants may even be part-time men working in the library being explored. All that the U.N. may have to pay for to the library occasionally will be the reservation of a room for the secretary of the consultant if it be found absolutely necessary. Even here, it is possible for the contract with the consultant to cover such rents for office room, so that he pays the library out of what he gets from the U.N. instead of money passing directly from the U.N. to the library even in this extreme form.

"Incidentally, this formula also provides against political and emotional prejudice that may possibly be induced in the constituents of the U.N. if the dressing of the intellectual pabulum needed for it is left in the hands of an employee of another library, who has neither official nor contractual relation with the U.N.

"This formula will invest the U.N. Library with full capacity to draw from the lump sum provided in the U.N. budget for contractual services not involving permanent addition to the staff."

7163 *Recommendations*

Some of the outstanding decisions on general library policy which may be said to have carried library service forward are the following:

1. The Committee wishes to emphasize that its concept of the library service which will be required by the United Nations implies a staff adequate in number and in technical subject and linguistic competence to make selections and surveys of literature in all fields, to collect background material, and to do a considerable amount of the preliminary assembling and analyzing of the material required for use.

2. In the formation of the collections the emphasis should be on service, not on accumulation and preservation; on immediate not ultimately potential usefulness. No attempt should be made to assemble comprehensive collections, and the Library must continuously discard material which is no longer useful to it. The Library must expect to be balanced only in terms of United Nations interests.

3. In one field the Library should be complete, namely, in the publications of the United Nations and of its antecedent and related organisations. The Library should also possess all important publications concerning these organisations. In all other fields the selection of material to be acquired should be guided (1) by its usefulness to the United Nations, and (2) by the extent to which it is satisfactorily available elsewhere.

4. These criteria of selection should be applied to acquisition from all sources, whether by purchase, gift, exchange or deposit.

5. No attempt should be made to build up the collections for purposes of general historical research beyond the needs of the United Nations.

6. The Committee approves the present practice of the Library in regard to priorities and completeness of cataloguing. The adequate organisation of the collections for the services which will depend upon them will require detailed analysis of many publications, but the Library should be free to provide more summary treatment for much of its material and, in some categories, may omit cataloguing altogether.

7. The principal services and collections of the Library should be easily accessible to all its official users. Its book stacks should be planned for maximum freedom of access by authorised readers. Its reading room or rooms should be designed to provide quick reference to the most used books as well as to the entire catalogue of the collection, and maximum possibilities of self-help by readers with minimum requirements of staffing. It should be made possible to provide within the central Library, carrel or cubicle space as needed in order to facilitate extended studies or the use of large quantities of material by official users. The arrangement of the central Library and of the departmental collections should provide for a rapid lending and delivery service from any part of the library system to any official borrower.

8. The Committee agree that the maintenance by the Library of collections within the departments of the Secretariat corresponds to a practical necessity, but recommends that these collections contain only the most needed reference material. The departmental liaison librarians should be responsible for the circulation of library materials within the departments and for liaison with the main Library in bibliographical and research activities. A staff of one professional librarian and one clerical assistant is considered to be a minimum for each of these collections.

9. The departmental collections should be integral parts of the Library and their personnel should form part of the library staff.

10. The Committee recommends that the bibliographical services include the following: issuing at regular intervals lists of the Library's accessions for the primary purpose of informing members of the Secretariat concerning newly acquired materials pertinent to their interests; compilation of subject-lists and other bibliographies covering those topics which already are or are expected to be within the fields of interest of the organisation; indexing and abstracting selected articles appearing in periodicals; assembling of background material.

7164 *Internship*

Asia is generally absent from the minds of people. Its existence has to be forcedly brought to notice. This appears to be somewhat vulgar. I was therefore often in a dilemma—whether to speak out or not. The location of the library in the United States had the effect of further involuntary narrowing of the field of attention. One instance in which I had to overcome feelings of delicacy was in connection with the selection of young candidates for internship (stipendiary studentship). It was suggested that the selection be confined to foreign students who complete training in Library Science in the United States. I had to protest that this would put an unintended premium on the American Schools of Librarianship and would adversely affect the library schools in other countries. I cited India as an instance and said that some of its library schools were second to none in the world. Being near to the United Nations Library was said to be the only thing that was had in mind and it was assured that no discrimination was meant. I pointed out that it was for that reason that I called it an “unintended” harm done to other countries. Finally the Committee worded the decision in the following terms:

“The Committee take cognizance with approval of the internship programme already established by the United Nations Secretariat. It recommends that the programme be extended to include the provision of one internship in the United Nations libraries, to enable young graduate librarians and research workers with special qualifications to become acquainted with the United Nations and its problems as they are revealed through the Division of Library Services. The knowledge and understanding thus gained should have great value when the interns take up positions in their own countries and have opportunities to disseminate information about the United Nations and the United Nations libraries. Moreover, if it proves possible to establish and maintain a library service on the lines laid down in this report, the Committee is confident that its example will have great influence on the kind

of library services provided elsewhere in the world. The committee recommends that these interns be drawn from all countries where library schools exist."

717 Carnegie Corporation of New York

At a dinner given by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to the members of the International Advisory Committee of Library Experts, I turned my speech in reply to the toast on the possibility of the new sprouting of library movement in India being stimulated by the Corporation. The President of the Corporation gave a sympathetic reply.

718 Rockefeller Foundation

I had met the representative of the Rockefeller Foundation in the Commonwealth Universities Congress at Oxford. I met him again in New York and asked if the Foundation could in any way aid the pursuit of Library Science in India. He has taken action on it. Something tangible may come out of this.

72 LIBRARY PERSONNEL

721 Great Britain

The arrangement for the training of librarians is not well-developed in the continental countries of Europe. In Great Britain, several new schools have been established. The teachers of most of the schools came to discuss with me their problems in syllabus and teaching. I too visited the schools at Brighton and Holborn and addressed the students. Students take these courses on a full-time basis and the managements of their libraries are giving them study-leave and financial help. The University School of Librarianship in London has stepped up the standard. The Library Association has appointed a full-timed Educational Officer to look after the training of personnel. The syllabus was being improved and diversified at the time of my visit, in

collaboration with the Aslib. The question-papers of the last few years are including questions on Colon Classification and on other books of ours. It was indeed a surprise to find how widely our books spread in the continental countries and Great Britain. Many of the members of the new generation of librarians showed familiarity with our books. I had a full taste of the author's joy of meeting his audience in distant lands and they too expressed joy in being face to face with their "mystic author who was almost a mythological being" as they put it.

722 United States

At the invitation of the Dean of the Department of Library Science, I spent a day at the Columbia University. This gave me a good opportunity to see an American Library School from the inside. It was vacation for the normal course. But the summer school was in session. There were nearly a hundred librarians who had joined this for a refresher course. The teachers had their hands quite full. They are all mostly full-timed teachers. I was amused to hear from an old lady who was lecturer in Reference Service that she had been regularly using our books on the subject and that every year she had been setting her students in solving the problems featured in that book as "illustrative actualities". I found an intelligent response in the students when I addressed them for a while at the request of the Dean. I had a long discussion with the members of the faculty on the new syllabus they were introducing.

A great change was being made in the course of studies in most of the universities. Many of these had changed the name of the degree in Library Science from Bachelor to Master. Indeed, a one-year post-graduate course now leads to the Master's degree in America as against the two-years' post-graduate course leading only to a Bachelor's degree in Delhi. Moreover the syllabus

of Delhi is much more advanced than that of the American Universities. The American syllabuses are focussed on description of books and bibliographies. According to me this is piece of knowledge which is better built up by experience rather than by *ad hoc* study. There is an aversion towards the study of technique. I was told that this was a phase of reaction to the over-emphasis which was laid till now on library technique.

I feel, however, that there is a deeper reason. They have come to the end of their tether, as it were, in improving the technique on the foundations laid eighty years ago by pioneers like Dewey and Cutter. They are reacting like one who had entered a blind lane. I found evidence of ennui in regard to library technique in the older generation of Great Britain also. But the younger generation showed greater sensitiveness to the greater potency of the newer foundations being designed in India. Some younger librarians have found it worthwhile to re-think the subject on the basis of these new foundations and are engaging themselves in research. But the American librarians appear to have developed a resistance to new theoretical approach and are turning their syllabus as well as their thought on mere quantitative and repetitive bibliographical effort and seem to believe that salvation can come from gadgets.

When I had the opportunity to address a body of classifiers and cataloguers more than a hundred strong at a meeting convened at the Library of Congress, a mixed feeling passed over me. I was delighted that so many men and women devoted to our profession could be gathered in a few hours' notice. Unlike the feeling of depression I get when I meet the materially frustrated men of our profession in the library meetings of our country, I felt elated and fulfilled to find in the Washington meeting a battery of bright, beaming faces which showed full enjoyment of world's goods and sense of professional consciousness and

solidarity. But I was depressed to find the firm grip which a tradition, but eighty years old, had got over their mind and filled it with a sense of self-satisfaction which is known to be always fatal to the advance of any discipline. The shift of the focus in their course of studies from deeper, fundamental and productive aspects to the peripheral, phenomenal and fleeting aspects is traceable to this factor which appears to be an inevitable result of the combination of material affluence and strong tradition. "Lest one good custom should corrupt the world" is too true a dictum to be overlooked. Our premier poet Valmiki has suggested this in all grim humour. The social significance of Rama's exile for fourteen years and Bharata acting as a bailee in yellow robes is the necessity to give a shake to a people when they settle down in self-complacency and comfort, and their mind withdraws from deeper pre-occupations and seeks fulfilment in externals and superficialities.

India which has had the worst suffering from the effects of this disease for over five centuries can and should take advantage of the extinguishment of traditions during her long period of inaction and turn some of her best thinkers on the pursuit of Library Science along fresh lines, so that she may have the double advantage of making the library an effective means of hastening the revival of the country through guided self-education and of building up her international credit in the blazing of new trails.

723 International Library School of the Unesco and Ifla

My being invited to be a member of the faculty of the International Library School conducted by the Unesco and Ifla in Manchester and London in September 1948 gave me a very valuable opportunity to come in intimate contact with four other members of the

faculty who came from different countries—America, Belgium, England and Norway—and with 50 middle-aged participants who hailed from 24 countries. India did not send any participant.

At Manchester, we all resided at Ashbourne Hall. It was a splendid place for a residential school like ours. Lord Morley's private library, which now forms the library of this Hall, formed a good library setting for the school. We all dined together, went out together and amused ourselves together. This made it possible for the people of the different countries to mix freely and become intimate friends and so to speak, think and dream Library Science severally and collectively even when we were not engaged in formal lecture or discussion hours. Tours were arranged to study the working of the City Library System of Manchester and the County Library System of Derbyshire and Lancashire.

When the school adjourned to London in the last week, we were scattered in three residential places and met for formal work in the class rooms of the School of Librarianship of the University College. This took away the benefit and all the charm of the intimate and profitable residential life we had at Manchester.

7231 *Philosophy of Librarianship*

My lecture on *Philosophy of librarianship* has appeared in *extenso* in the *Indian Librarian* for September, 1948.

The official summary published by the Unesco is as follows:

UNESCO/LBA/Conf. 2/,

Manchester, 9th September, 1948

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
UNESCO-IFLA

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOR LIBRARIANS
PHILOSOPHY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANSHIP

Summary of a lecture by

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan

7231 0 Introduction

A public library is a multi-purpose social institution, the focus of which shifts from one purpose to another as the social pressure varies. The improvements in the cheap and rapid reproduction of books and the increasing dimensions of the wave of democracy during the last century are now shifting the focus to make the public library an agency for the fulfilment of one of the Fundamental Rights of man enunciated by The Sankey Committee *viz.* the unimpeded right for information and knowledge.

7231 1 Library Science and Its Laws

The Library Science germane to the present position of the focus and the consequent techniques and procedures can be traced to the Five laws 1. Books are for use; 2. Books are for all; 3. Every book its reader; 4. Save the time of the reader; and 5. A library is a growing organism. Open access, shelf-arrangement, classification, catalogue, book-selection, reference service, library architecture and fittings: issue methods, publicity methods—indeed everything connected with public libraries in the present age, whether already known or yet to be discovered—can be deduced from these laws.

7231 2 Personality

These laws themselves are traceable to a philosophy of life, according to which man's personality is dynamic, ever seeking unfoldment at its own speed, in its own way and towards its own fulness. This is indeed the process of education. This

process covers in an integrated way the vital, mental and spiritual sheaths, and is the resultant of the three forces; biological, environmental and psycho-genetic.

7231 21 Possibility of Manipulation

Of these it is only the environmental force, including those of the physical and the social environment, that is amenable to manipulation.

7231 22 Switch and Master-Switch

In the present stage of human evolution, it is the switch in the mental sheath which has to function as the master-switch. Thus the stimulation of the mind is the most dominant factor in the unfoldment of personality.

7231 23 Population Pressure

The present population pressure makes it obligatory that mental power has to be used considerably to step up the yield of nature so as to feed, clothe and shelter all. Democracy and demography together call for the mind of many more than before to be cultivated to a far higher degree than before.

7231 3 Mental Factors

Of the five mental factors, viz. 1. lower emotions; 2. primary senses; 3. memory; 4. intellect and 5. sublimated emotions; the first two are largely biochemical and bound up with the vital or bodily sheath and the last is more bound up with the spiritual sheath. It is memory and intellect that are severely of the mental sheath.

7231 31 Library and Leisure

The body gets exhausted more quickly and recovers more slowly than the mind. When the body sinks towards exhaustion and before it is prostrated to sleep, the mind can be fed actively. It is this interval of leisure which needs to be filled up by the service of the public library. The modern tendency to increase leisure so that there are moments of leisure when the body is not too exhausted, increases the opportunity and the obligation of the public library. In such moments books of a higher order should be activated by the personal service of reference librarians of highly integrated personality so as to sublimate the emotions of the people. The extension side of the public library should be used for more than mere publicity and should bring together the local public and the local and visiting savants in the presence of books of the right sort so as to help the sublimation of emotions, so essential for happy community life and international amity.

7231 32 Library and Enrichment of Memory

The intimate way in which the world is now getting knit together and the downpour of new facts, inventions and discoveries bring the load on memory to a breaking point. Humanity has sought relief by the invention of "Externalised memory" or reference books. These being even more artificial than ordinary books, the public library should have not only a good collection of them, but also provide adequate Ready Reference Staff.

7231 33 Library and Sharpening of Intellect

One way of sharpening intellect is to observe the working of slightly better intellects, which is done best by living together. But urbanisation makes such intimate life impossible and modern economic pressure makes leisurely contact impossible. The necessary specialisation of modern times intensifies the specificity of one's fields of intellectual interest so much that equals and superiors in that field are not found except in far off places and times. These three factors denying access to the whole man, we have to depend upon the intellectual deposits called books as the second best help. These hold thought-energy packed in a material form fit for transport and preservation. To meet all the varied interests of all the people of a locality, the public library has to maintain a large and varied collection of such materials, organize them in a helpful way and provide staff to help readers to pierce through the artificiality of their nature.

7231 34 Fleeting Nature of Intellectual Interest

Unlike lower emotions and primary senses which are stimulated and made inexorable by biochemical action, the intellectual interest is secondary in genesis, momentary in existence and not compelling in its urge for satisfaction. This indicates need for harnessing it in the split second when it is generated by technical processes of ever-increasing sharpness, human aid, and removal of all obstructions to free access to books, inherited from the past.

7231 4 Libraries and Modern Methods of Mass Contact

Intellectual growth needs selective repetition of approach to the same sources of knowledge and privacy which books and libraries alone can provide and not merely the other known modern methods of mass-contact like the radio and the cinema. Nor do the latter show sufficient respect to varying individual needs. Hence libraries will always have a future, but these

mass-methods can be used by libraries as a stimulus as they appeal more to the primary senses.

7231 5 Other Regions of the Philosophy of Librarianship

Philosophy of public librarianship touches also political science, public finance, and legislation.

7231 6 A New Audit Required

As mental manipulation is neither involuntary as the biochemical nor final and certain as the spiritual, its method has to be one of trial and error. The public library being an agent for mental manipulation needs to be concurrently tested for its efficiency. As a social institution, it can be tested only by statistical methods. Dependence on common sense or the exceptional flair of the chosen few is no longer sufficient. A new method of audit is necessary and for this purpose new techniques of statistical assessment must be forged; indeed a new discipline of "Librametry" must be formed jointly by the library profession and the mathematical profession.

7231 7 Conclusion

Then only can we change and adjust our methods to suit varying needs, and change, though far less frequently, even the laws and the philosophy or the hypotheses of our science. For what is paramount in library service is neither the technique, nor the philosophy but the social purpose of helping humanity through the provision of a means for perpetual self-education towards local and international understanding and through it towards happiness, delight and peace and the fulfilment of its destiny.

7231 8 Bibliography

FOR SECTION 1

1. *Five laws of library science.* 1931.
2. *Preface to library science.* 1948.

FOR SECTION 31

3. *Education for leisure.* 1945.

FOR SECTION 32

4. *Reference service and bibliography.* 1940.

7231 9 Another Treatment

The practice at the Unesco School was for two members of the faculty to give their own exposition

before a subject was taken up in the discussion groups. Dr. Carnovsky of the Chicago University was the other lecturer on this subject. The official summary of his talk is as follows:

Summary of a lecture by

Dr. L. Carnovsky

Modern public librarianship, both in Great Britain and in America, may be dated roughly from 1850. In that year the British Parliament passed the Public Libraries Act, under which Manchester established its Public Library; and two years before, Massachusetts enacted a law to permit Boston to levy a tax for a public library. Although other cities had established libraries earlier, Manchester and Boston are outstanding as precursors of the *modern* library movement.

In America, at least, one can see a clear line of historical development behind the emergence of the modern public library, and in tracing this development we can understand the philosophy and objectives of our libraries to-day. First, we have the example of Benjamin Franklin's library, a subscription library established in 1731. It was not free, but it contributed the conception of a library and of library use for the purpose of personal education. Franklin's library contained only the most serious type of literature; the classics and scientific works occupied prominent places in it, and even fifty years later it was not considered expedient to include fiction in the collections. This library, imitated widely, is often spoken of as the father of the American library movement; actually, however, other libraries were equally important. These were the many joint-stock, semi-public, libraries, which also emphasized joint book ownership, and which also contributed to the idea of the library as an educational force.

In addition to such libraries which antedated the modern public library, other social influences were at work. One was the spread of free education, and with it the creation of a reading public. Over and over again one meets the statement that while schools taught people how to read, society denied them access to reading matter unless they had sufficient wealth to purchase the books they wanted. It was also argued by library proponents, both in England and in America, that the library was social necessity to combat the evil influences of the saloon and other forms of vice open to the farm boy and the immigrant. Further it was contended that the common labourer, the unskilled worker, the apprentice, all should have

the opportunity for personal improvement through study of his craft, or of any craft through which he expected to earn his livelihood. On another plane library enthusiasts pointed out that peaceful social change could come about only through an enlightened citizenry, a citizenry that could be depended upon to bring about social change through law and through periodic elections. And here we see perhaps one of the most significant arguments for libraries as agencies of enlightenment in a democratic society. Political democracy means the participation of all adults in the processes of government. To participate wisely requires ability to judge the issues of the day and to arrive at intelligent conclusions with regard to them. What better means could there be than books and literature generally to help in this process to ascertain the facts, to study the arguments, to consider alternative means of action, to arrive at a studied rather than an impulsive conclusion. The free access to arguments on all sides is the very essence of the democratic decision—this plus the willingness to accept a decision though it be contrary to one's own private preferences.

Thus, we find the following forces behind the evolution of the modern library in a democratic society.

1. The desire to supplement the work of the schools.
2. " help the worker to improve himself.
3. " provide a counter-attraction to vice.
4. " make for peaceful and orderly social change through democratic processes.
5. " help the individual to develop as a human personality, to develop intellectually and culturally as a free man, free of the domination of caprice and subject only to the rule of reason and intellect.

These forces still exert a strong influence in public librarianship to-day. Some are more important than others; some have changed as the currents of modern life have changed. But in spite of modifications and additions, the basic objectives of the public library in a democratic society remain, to help the individual to develop himself to his full capacity, and to help him comprehend the issues of his community, his nation, and his world. This means, in short, contribute to the formations of an intelligent public opinion.

George Washington, America's first president, fully recognized the power of public opinion in the structure of democratic

government. In his farewell address to the American people he counselled his countrymen to "promote as an object of primary importance, institution for the general diffusion of knowledge". By implication, this would surely include the public library.

In addition to the broadly educational goals we must recognize others; one in particular has come to dominate much of library activity to-day: reading for recreation. One of the great leaders of the library movement in America, George Ticknor of Boston, advocated the provision of contemporary literature in quantity—he referred to it as "the pleasant literature of the day"—to the end of attracting people to the library and inculcating in them the reading habit, so that they would then proceed to the reading of more substantial books. Whether his hopes for such progress have been borne out or not is a debatable question. But the fact is that the public library now stands as one of the most important agencies for the distribution of recreational reading matter. To-day we are not even concerned whether such reading leads to more serious reading; it is sufficient that it takes place, and helps people to pass the time enjoyably.

Another goal is to provide reliable information; the modern public library stands as a first aid in answering questions and solving problems. This, the reference function, occupies a position of great importance in every library. Whatever field of interest, personal, family, business, vocation, or avocation—any subject on which accurate information is wanted—the library is ready to help, from its own resources or from those of other libraries. Since the public library is the sounding board of its community, the interests of its inhabitants are reflected in its collections and in its services as well.

Finally, we should not forget the great historical function of the library: the preservation of the materials of our cultural heritage. From the earliest Alexandrian libraries, through the monastic and scholastic libraries, down to modern times, this goal has never been lost sight of; and though the smaller libraries to-day can pay less deference to it, our great libraries recognize it as a corner-stone, as one of their main reasons for being. If any variation in this goal has been introduced it is only to emphasize the desirability not merely of preserving, but of becoming acquainted with the works of the mind enshrined in literary form.

In summary, the goals or objectives of the modern library may be defined as follows:

1. To promote enlightened citizenship.
2. To provide opportunity and encouragement for children and adults to carry on their education continuously.
3. To serve as the community's centre for reliable information.
4. To provide recreation through reading.
5. To preserve and to disseminate the books which represent our cultural heritage.

The philosophy of the modern library may thus be epitomized. The library is a free institution for free men; open to all, regardless of race, creed, nationality, class, or wealth; it makes available and encourages the reading of books reflecting diverse points of view; it performs a fundamental educational function in helping individual development and enlightenment. Thus it makes its basic contribution to the maintenance of the democratic tradition in the modern world.

7232 *Systematic Technical Processes*

The second lecture which was on *Classification and cataloguing* is awaiting publication. The official summary made by the Unesco is as follows:

Summary of lecture by

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan

7232 0 Introduction

We start with the assumption that a library is a substation in which thought-energy, stored in material form as books, has to be re-transformed into thought-form so as to create more thought-energy. While the ultimate stage of transformation must take place in the brain cells of readers, the library profession, preliminary work can make it easy, economical and efficient. This work will include classification, cataloguing, shelf-display, documentation work and reference service. As the latter three depend on the first two, the discussion will be confined to the first two only.

Another factor: The soul (thought-content of a book) lies within the jurisdiction of class number. The subtle body or the language and the period of birth is looked after by book numbers. The gross body whose features are all usually printed on the title-page is taken care of by the non-subject entries of the catalogue.

7232 1 Library Classification

7232 11 Definition

The old and traditional definition of classification as the mention of idea or things in a systematic order must be amplified by obligation to provide a mechanism to preserve the preferred order without the need to re-establish it by reading the books on each occasion, and to find a correct helpful place for new ideas and books among those already arranged.

7232 12 Structure of the Mechanism

Alphabetisation fails as a mechanism for this purpose. Recourse must, therefore, be had to the traditional mechanism for arrangement, *viz.* ordinal numbers. Books, articles and specific subjects should be represented by ordinal numbers. Ordinal numbers representing subjects are class numbers. Work of determining them is classification. He who determines them is classifier. The totality of a system of such numbers is a scheme of classification. He who designs such a scheme is classificationist. A scheme of classification is an artificial language of ordinal numbers which has only substantives and conjunctions and admits of no synonyms, homonyms or semasiological change.

The Decimal Classification was the first such language to be invented. While its decimal fraction notation provided for interpolation of subordinate classes indefinitely (hospitality in chain), it failed to provide similarly for co-ordinate classes (hospitality in array).

The Congress Classification gives a more helpful order but in notation, it is primitive, offers only limited hospitality and makes no attempt to distinguish the two kinds of hospitality but mixes promiscuously subordinate and co-ordinate classes.

7232 13 Self-perpetuating Scheme

In the above two schemes, the classificationist becomes a bottle-neck as they do not show the classifier how a new formation in the field of knowledge should be numbered. The chief contribution of the Colon Classification is its showing the way to break this bottleneck, make the classifiers autonomous with the certitude that all will arrive at the same number. To this end it seeks to reduce all ideas to the combinations of disguised forms of the fundamental categories—time, space, energy, matter and personality. It also provides facet-formulae for all main classes, uses scheduled and unscheduled mnemonics and makes use of phase-analysis.

7232 14 Obstruction to Progress

It is reluctance to recognize a classification scheme as an artificial language and the false notion that it should be understood by 'the man in the street' as easily as a natural language that is obstructing progress in classificatory discipline.

7232 15 As a Means of Social Economy

The very success of libraries leads to creation of more and more of thought and has a boomerang action. Books and periodicals are now being produced a hundred times faster than a century ago, and they cover increasingly narrowing fields; with the result specialists find it difficult to know easily what is happening in allied fields. This explains the s.o.s. of the Conference of Scientists convened recently by the Royal Society of London. It is a challenge to the library profession to sharpen its technique. It is coupled with an invitation to our profession to become equal partners with the scientists and other thinkers in extending the field of knowledge. We should rise to the occasion, release ourselves from being tied eternally to the past and take a step forward turning ourselves to the future.

7232 16 Limitations of Classification

But as classification seeks to arrange in a single dimension thought-units which are multidimensional, and as different minds will expect it to be done in different ways, classification must be supplemented by a means by which a reader can be dropped into a proper perspective-relation with the way in which the scheme arranges. It is the library catalogue which provides such a means.

7232 2 Library Catalogue

A catalogue should present a well-ordered, helpful, filiatory panorama of all the materials bearing directly or indirectly on the specific subject engaging the thought of a reader at the moment.

7232 21 Classified Part

This can be done only by the classified part whose entries mention the names of specific subjects in their leading lines in terms of ordinal numbers, i.e. call numbers.

7232 22 Alphabetical Part

As the readers cannot know the translation of the name of a specific subject into ordinal numbers, the alphabetical part must give entries with the names of specific subjects in a

natural language in their leading sections and say "For this subject and its subdivisions see the classified part of the catalogue under number so and so". This must be done also for all the larger classes of which a specific subject is a subdivision, since readers usually look up the catalogue only under such larger classes.

7232 23 Human Function of the Catalogue

The above is the higher human function which the catalogue must perform in addition to listing names of authors, collaborators, books and series.

7232 24 Inadequacy of the Dictionary Catalogue

As intellectual hunger is fleeting and not compelling, the dilatoriness of "See also" subject entries of the Dictionary Catalogue fail to meet the situation.

7232 241 An Early Illusion

As only the upper quartiles used the library in early days and as these had a fairly persisting hunger, the library profession did not discover this defect. Now that democracy is bringing the lowest quartiles into the library, it can no longer be overlooked and subject entries must be in the form of class number entries.

7232 3 Symbiosis between Classification and Catalogue

As there was no individualising, or even a fairly good scheme of classification at the time Cutter wrote the *Rules for a dictionary catalogue*, it threw the burden of finding the specific subjects of books on the cataloguers. Now that there are good schemes of classification and the discipline of classification has become a distinctive one, it is wasteful for the cataloguer to continue this job.

7232 31 The Correct Procedure

The proper and economical thing to do is for the cataloguer to derive mechanically by the chain procedure from the class number—the choice and rendering of headings of subjects. Thus the cataloguer should confine himself to the title-page and not go into the content of the book.

7232 4 International Co-operation

To-day new thought is being created in several languages. To assemble and feature them in a single sequence of documentation, recourse must be had to naming their specific

subjects in an international language. As no natural language can become international and even if it does, it will not help systematic order, it is necessary to use an artificial international language and the classificatory language serves this purpose exactly.

7232 5 Unesco's Task

It is fitting that the Unesco should, as part of its educational, scientific and cultural programme, set up a competent agency to go into this question of rationalising all such systematic technical processes and placing them on a self-perpetuating basis.

7232 6 Bibliography

FOR SECTION 1

1. *Library classification: Fundamentals and procedure.* 1944
2. *Prolegomena to library classification.* 1937
3. *Elements of library classification.* 1936

FOR SECTION 2

4. *Classified catalogue code.* Edn. 2. 1945
5. *Dictionary catalogue code.* 1945
6. *Theory of library catalogue.* 1938
7. *Indian librarian.* V. I. 1947

FOR SECTION 4

8. *Review of documentation F.I.D. V.I. 14. Fasc. 4* (1948)

72327 Another Treatment

The second lecturer on this subject was Mr. Wm. R. Maidment of the Westminster Library. The official summary of his talk is given below:—

Summary of a lecture by

Wm. R. Maidment, F.L.A.

723271 Purpose of Technical Processes

Cataloguing has been called an art and classification has been called a science, implying that these practices are worthwhile in themselves.

In a modern library all technical processes are not ends but the means to an end—the service of the library user. A modern library is specified as libraries were once primarily concerned with collecting and preserving books, as indeed certain libraries are to-day.

The modern public library, however, exists mainly to provide a service and in its emancipation from mediæval ideas it has removed the physical barriers between books and readers. The purpose of the technical processes is to remove the other, less tangible but no less effective barriers, bringing the reader into contact with the books he needs.

723272 General Principles

The processes must be essential to the purposes of the individual library or department but must be kept flexible to allow for the changing needs of living people.

It is not necessary to be parochial in prescribing methods for particular libraries; all readers gain from national and international co-operation and the methods used will allow for participation in such schemes.

The main processes—accessioning, cataloguing and classification—must be considered in the light of their contribution to the library as a service agency. All other considerations are secondary.

723273 Accession Records

Accessioning is routine office work in the main and there must be no hesitation in adopting the efficient techniques of modern commerce.

Card indexes—which librarians invented—are to be preferred to ledgers, and in large libraries punched cards and machine accounting—which is what the accountant has made of the card index—are probably the right methods.

Small libraries can use the type of cards employed for machine accounting so that if such a method is adopted later the records will be homogeneous. There are also systems using notched cards which require only desk equipment and are therefore suitable for small systems.

Visible indexes are invaluable in large libraries for keeping track of periodicals, serials, works in progress, etc., and a progressive outlook and imaginative approach to new problems are invaluable anywhere.

723274 Classification

Classification and cataloguing are professional activities which are, broadly speaking, peculiar to libraries and librarians have had to manufacture their own techniques in these fields. However, the same basic principles apply and service to readers is the paramount consideration.

If a classification scheme arranges books in an order convenient to the reader and brings him in contact with the books he needs, it is a good scheme.

No philosophical canons or scholarly principles can be allowed to over-ride this basic requirement, for no process is justified for its own sake—it is a means to an end.

It is doubtful whether any considerable sacrifice should be made for the sake of standardisation—co-operation with other libraries does not depend on the arrangement of books within each unit and classification may well be a local problem. Even within the library special departments may need different treatment from the main collection.

723275 Cataloguing

These principles are applicable to the details of cataloguing but not to major factors, for some standardisation of book description is essential to library co-operation.

The catalogue arrangement, the extent of analytical entries, the terms used and even the bibliographical details given are matters to be adjusted to local needs. These are all matters in which much research into the users' requirements remains to be done.

The form of the main entry needs to be standardised so that the same book will be described in the same way everywhere. This is best achieved within each country by central cataloguing and it is hard to understand why so few countries have not yet introduced a scheme which saves so much duplication of effort. Central cataloguing projects are naturally linked with the production of national bibliographies for which an appeal was made by the League of Nations many years ago and was repeated last year by the UNESCO general conference at Chicago.

National bibliographies of current literature are essential if librarians are to cope with the vastly increased output of material which will come with the improvement of literacy and educational standards for which we work.

If entries in such bibliographies are numbered serially each year it becomes possible to refer to books by year and code numbers, thus greatly simplifying the production of Union catalogues of all libraries in whole provinces or countries. Such catalogues are necessary for efficient schemes of inter-library loans and since they are built up from entries supplied by individual libraries they must be considered in connection with the book processes.

723276 Systematic Departmental Planning

Consideration of wider schemes to prevent duplication of work must not hide wasted effort within the individual library. Research work by the book selector must not be repeated by the accessions department and later by the cataloguers. Careful organisation is needed to eliminate waste and the centralisation of all technical work relating to the acquisition of books is essential.

The details of planning must depend on local conditions,—for instance, the division of duties among the staff may be functional or by subject. If there are few skilled workers in relation to total staff the functional division ensures that the most vital processes on each book are performed by experts while simpler processes are carried out by juniors. Where there is a high proportion of skilled staff the division may be by subject, language or form so that each type of book is handled through all stages by a specialist.

Other local factors such as the type of accommodation available must affect the methods but the ideal is a department which receives books at one end and passes them through all stages until they emerge ready for use at the other.

No system is perfect for all time and adjustments must be made as new needs arise and new techniques are developed.

Some librarians have completely reversed the order of processes to take advantage of machines for reproducing the catalogue entry—as the accessions card is printed from the same plate this process follows cataloguing instead of preceding it.

723277 Cost of Technical Processes

How large an item is book-processing in the library's budget? Before the war the theory was advanced (and immediately challenged!) that the librarian might well spend as much in exploiting a book as the book cost. Such an extravagant theory would find little sympathy among public librarians but the present high costs in many libraries must be reduced by systematic organisation and the elimination of non-essentials.

Cost will always vary considerably—a library with many branches will buy many copies of the same work and the cost of cataloguing expressed as so much per volume will be low, while a special library buying few duplicates and making many analytical entries will find costs proportionately high. The number of tasks handled by the department also varies—some cataloguing departments are responsible for press-marking.

labelling and stamping books; and the number of withdrawals and transfers varies. All these factors make comparisons difficult and the unjustifiably high cost in some libraries are not easily exposed.

723278 Conclusion

A further reference may be made to the opening remark about mediaeval librarians. All honour is due to our predecessors who, to achieve their purposes, invented techniques based upon the best knowledge available in their day. We can do no less in ours to achieve our objectives—for modern librarians to perpetuate outmoded techniques would be as if the mediaeval librarian had used clay tablets in spite of the availability of easier mediums.

7233 Discussion Groups

The discussion groups were most stimulating. It was indeed an experience to pilot the debate among mature librarians from different nations along fruitful channels. On occasions, I used to feel all the thrill of the expert keeping the giant car of the temple at Tiruvarur on the right course during its annual perambulation. The participants too seem to have enjoyed my handling of the course of the debate. For a Brazilian librarian remarked "You are the only leader who made us think"! Another from Haiti said, "Your analysis and isolation of the issues stops all wandering of mind. We are amazed at the thoroughness of our discussion". Here are the conclusions formulated in some of the group discussions led by me:

72331 Philosophy of Public Librarianship

Group No. 4.

Leader: Dr. S. R. Ranganathan

Rapporteur: Miss E. Normann of Norway

1. Should the emphasis of public library be on recreation or perpetual self-education? What changes in library service are necessary if the emphasis should be shifted to the latter?

2. What part should public library play in the use of leisuretime to the advantage of the individual and society?

The constant aim of public library service shall be the betterment of the condition of man; to facilitate this, steps should be taken to release more staff to help readers.

Note. In the elucidation of the above resolution it is necessary that an interpretation of the words "betterment of man" should be given. By this we mean the improvement of his life by all and any recreative and educational means.

Since this in turn must mean an increase in the contact between library staff and readers, we recommend the rationalisation of many of the routine and technical processes now used in libraries. As an example of this we would instance as a first step the adoption of some form of centralised classification and cataloguing. Doubtless an investigation into the other processes would produce some similar rationalisation to release staff, who would be otherwise engaged in impersonal repetitive work, for the human advisory work with readers.

3. What part can public library service play to promote international understanding and how?

Whereas we realise that the promotion of international understanding will arise naturally from the "betterment of condition of man" which is the aim of the public library, we feel that the following will play an early and ever increasing part in its promotion:

1. The provision of realistic and correct information about other countries; and

2. The supply of the indigenous literature (used in the broadest sense) of other countries; by

3. reciprocal arrangement of supply of books between countries; and

4. assessment of books in the languages of other countries for which translation would meet a demand.

Note. This proposal endeavours in the first place to provide an immediate counter to the effects of propaganda on ignorance.

Furthermore the provision of the best of the indigenous literature of a country alone can give others a true picture of the life of that country. The literature of some lands is restricted and can be immediately augmented to the benefit of the people by the provision of satisfactory translations of the best works in allied, yet more prolific cultures.

In addition to purchase the supply of books between countries by mutual gift needs to be fostered and with this we would invite attention to the excellent work carried out

immediately after the recent war in the sharing out amongst devastated areas spare copies and other books collected from libraries and individuals in the more fortunate areas.

4. What priority should library development plan have in social reconstruction?

Subject to the provision of the minimum standard of food, clothing and shelter for all, priority should be given to education, and therefore to public libraries, to accelerate the social well-being of the people.

To amplify this, we would invite special attention to conditions now existing in the devastated areas of Eastern Europe and in the rapidly awakening countries of Asia and Africa. Here the need is for the ever-increasing provision of standards of social as well as economic security. The value of the public library as a base upon which the education of the people and the resultant improvements of their life, and therefore freedom from want and fear, can be founded and promoted, will be easily seen.

72332 Work with Children and Adolescents

GROUP No. 4

Leader: Dr. S. R. Ranganathan

Rapporteur: Miss Nieboer

Question 1. Should a children's library be a part of the public library or be attached to the school?

The ideal is to have a children's department in the public library and also a library in the school and that these should work in close co-operation with each other. But where this is not possible for economic reasons, it is preferable to have the children's library in the public library and to make it work in close co-operation with the schools.

Question 2. If sufficient reading material for children does not exist in a country, what can be done to meet the situation?

If sufficient reading material for children does not exist:

- (a) The library profession should look for books corresponding with their needs in other countries and try to influence the translation and publication of these in their own country;
- (b) UNESCO should make and circulate periodically an international list of best children's books available in the various countries;

- (c) UNESCO should include children's book in their translation programme and pursue it vigorously;
- (d) The library profession should stimulate in their own country the writing of good books for children and make suggestions to authors and publishers about needs and wants; and
- (e) The library profession should promote exchange of children's books between countries when the language barrier can be overcome.

Annotation: For example, the writing of good children's books may be encouraged by the promotion of award of prizes for the best books.

Question 3. What can public libraries do to keep children as users of the library after they leave school?

Children who have left school can be kept as users of the public library by

- (a) Close co-operation between the librarians and the leaders of the youth groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Folk High-Schools, Religious movements, etc.;
- (b) an active public relations policy;
- (c) stimulation of the library need while the child is still in school; and
- (d) abolishing the rigid distinction between children's departments and adult departments in location and function.

Question 4. How can a children's library help children whose home surroundings are not favourable to reading habits?

For children whose home surroundings are not favourable to the formation of reading habits the public library should:

- (a) provide a reading-room where children can read in the peace and quiet they are unable to secure at home, and keep it open for an adequate period of time, so that it may be available for use during all their free hours;
- (b) endeavour to convince parents of the benefit of acquiring a love for books; and
- (c) observe children closely and with sympathy, awakening their interest, feeding their quest for

information before the interest dies away and keeping it up in every other possible way.

72333 Book-Selection

Group 1

Leader: Dr. S. R. Ranganathan

Rapporteur:

Question 1. Is censorship for any reason justified?

While respect for popular demand and needs is the primary criterion and true censorship should fall within the province of the State, exclusion of certain books may, occasionally, be necessary as illustrated by the following table:

1. Children's libraries: Sex-books of a certain kind may have to be kept out.
2. Adult's libraries: Possible grounds for censoring:
 - (1) Extreme violence to prevalent moral standards in humanities and social sciences.
 - (2) Out of date books in positive sciences.
 - (3) Bad quality of writing when better materials on the same subject are available.
 - (4) Inaccuracy.

Grounds that should not figure:

- (1) Political (2) Pressure group (3) Religion
- (4) Opinion.

Question 2. To what extent should popular demand influence book-selection?

The influence of public demand and book-selection must be reciprocal and it is a necessary, though delicate, duty of the public library to step up the tone of public demand, not by ex-cathedra decisions but by a modulated and participative lifting of standard whenever demand is unduly pressed down to low level by other forces.

Question 3. Are the present methods and tools of book-selection adequate?

Tools: Present sources need supplementing. Conditions vary in countries: weekly, monthly, and cumulative annual national bibliographies are necessary. Annotated weekly or monthly lists are also desirable.

Methods: Limitation of finance forces co-ordination of book-selection among the different libraries of a country.

72334 Library Extension Services

Group No. 1

Leader: Dr. S. R. Ranganathan

Rapporteur: Miss M. Skanche

Question No. 1. Can the British system of library service be applied in other countries?

Note: It is not only public libraries but also libraries of every other kind which should participate in all co-operative schemes to secure national economy.

1 *In relation to resources:*

- 11 By promotion of interlibrary loan and for this purpose having a National Centre, and in addition Regional Centres in countries of considerable area and of many linguistic regions;
- 12 By having in each such centre a union catalogue and a fairly exhaustive bibliographical collection;
- 13 By having in each centre a full-timed professional staff strong in bibliography and an adequate clerical staff;
- 14 The location of the National Centre in the National Library is the best, if possible. If impossible, it may be attached to any other host-library or even be maintained as an independent body. But it is desirable that a Regional Centre should seek as its host a library of the region strong in bibliographical collection; and
- 15 The finance of the Centres should be found either solely by the State or jointly by the State and the participating libraries.

2 *In relation to the treatment of the reading and kindred materials:*

21 *In relation to book-selection:*

- 211 By the National Centre publishing national bibliographies at convenient intervals and cumulating them suitably;
- 212 By a scheme for the sharing of the field of knowledge by the participating libraries so as to reduce duplica-

tion to the minimum necessary and make the library funds of all the participating libraries buy the largest variety of reading and kindred materials.

- 213 By the formation of a dormitory for discarded reading and kindred materials which should decide the number of copies of a book which may be weeded out altogether and the number which should be preserved to meet future demand; and
- 214 By the formulation of proposals for the continuous improvement of the standard of book production.

22 *In relation to book purchase:*

- 221 By jointly seeking favourable terms from the book trade;
- 222 By promoting a co-operative agency for purchasing reading and kindred materials from hard currency areas abroad, overcoming difficulties such as customs-barrier, hard currency and location of materials; and
- 223 By jointly formulating methods for utilizing the services of the Unesco in the procurement of reading and kindred materials.

23 *In relation to classification and cataloguing:*

- 231 By the promotion of a uniform system of classification and cataloguing; and
- 232 By the promotion of a centralised classification and cataloguing which should preferably be done at the National Library.

24 *In relation to binding:*

- 241 By the promotion of a centralised library binding (other than casing) such as is being attempted in Norway and Denmark, either on a national or a regional basis.

3 *In relation to service to readers:*

- 31 By agreeing that the reader's ticket of any library should be honoured by every other library of the country when a reader has to use it casually;
- 32 By the formation of a National Bureau of Reference Service to pursue reference problems beyond the power of a local library, the same being located either preferably in the National Library or in the National Centre if it is different from the former; and

- 33 By the periodical issue of select book-lists in response to or in anticipation of demand as is being done by the National Book League of Great Britain.

In relation to material aids and equipment:

- 41 By the promotion of simplification and standardisation of materials and practices for use in libraries.

Question No. 2. How are hospital and institutional libraries to be administered efficiently?

- 21 By the formation of a division in public libraries for hospital and other institutional service;
22 By giving special training to the staff of this division; and
23 By the hospital and other institutional authorities contributing to the public library towards the cost of this division.

Note: The group felt that library service to sea-farers and fishermen should be organised in a different way but that it had no time to examine it in detail.

Question No. 3. What is the best way for a large city to carry on library extension service?

Note: The group did not have time to examine this question in detail but was in general agreement with the summary of the talk on the subject.

72335 Systematic Technical Processes

Group No. 2

Leader: Dr. S. R. Ranganathan

Rapporteur: W. B. Paton

Question No. 1. Is it possible and desirable for UNESCO to promote and provide for the maintenance of an international scheme of classification and cataloguing code?

I Desirability of an international classification scheme

11 Classification as a means of arranging books in a popular library should be suited to the needs of the library, and uniformity between libraries is not essential;

12 Classification for bibliographical and documentation purposes must be more exact and in line with current thought, which knows no national boundaries, and an accepted international scheme is therefore desirable;

13 It is desirable, if possible, to provide a uniform scheme of classification which would meet both needs, with alternatives for special libraries and local variations; and

14 Such a scheme is possible, and has indeed been accomplished to a large extent.

Desirability of an international cataloguing code

21 It is highly desirable to formulate an international cataloguing code, and the group welcomed the proposal of IFLA for the establishment of a combined bureau of IFLA and F.I.D. for this purpose.

UNESCO as agency for this work

31 The group was doubtful whether UNESCO is the most appropriate agency for this purpose, and the opinion was endorsed that while it should give all encouragement to projects of international standardisation, details of schemes should be worked out by experts of IFLA and F.I.D.

Question No. 2. If a scheme of inter-library lending is in operation so that readers are no longer restricted in their choice to the stock of their library, are lending library catalogues for public use still worthwhile?

- 1 The catalogue as a mere finding list might be dispensed with under such circumstances, though only in small libraries where the staff can easily become familiar with all the stock.
- 12 The catalogue as a bibliographical tool with added entries, including analytical,—its most important function—cannot be dispensed with in any library without adverse effect on the efficiency of the service.

Question No. 3. Would it be helpful to determine mechanically from a book's class number the subject headings required in the catalogue?

1 The close relation between subject cataloguing and classification makes it very helpful for the class number to disclose every subject of the book dealt with.

72336 1 Personnel Training
2 Public Library Legislation
Group No. 2

Leader: Dr. S. R. Ranganathan

Rapporteur: Miss Ruth Villela

Question No. 1. What are the relative values of library training in a formal library school and in a library?

Library training in a formal library school whose programme provides also for practical and observational work is of greater value than mere training in a library.

Question No. 2. Can a library school do anything to prepare their students to further international understanding?

A library school provides greater opportunity to prepare its participants to promote international understanding than schools in other subjects like engineering, chemical technology and military science. By using these opportunities and by encouraging candidates from other countries to join it, the library schools of every country should give to the students an adequate experiential background in the promotion of international understanding while serving in their respective libraries.

Question No. 3. Should library planning wait until trained personnel is available or should it proceed at once in the *absence of trained personnel*?

Planning *qua* planning can be done in advance and in fact the planning must indicate the pace at which the working out of the plan and the training of the personnel should move abreast of each other, paying special attention to the minimum of fully trained staff, which should be available before the implementing of the plan is set on foot, and the use of in-training of staff during the early years of the plan and the time when dependence on mere in-training should be abandoned.

Question No. 4. Should establishment of libraries be made obligatory and what should be the State aid?

Establishment of libraries should be made obligatory. The extent of State aid and the proportion in which the financial responsibility for libraries should be shared by the Local Bodies, the Governments of the Constituent States and the Federal Government will have to be decided by each country in the

light of various factors, like the distribution of power of taxation and of functions between the different authorities, and the incidence of developed and undeveloped areas.

7234 Unesco's Letter

On 6-10-1948, the Assistant Director-General of the Unesco wrote as follows:

"It was a great privilege to the Unesco-Ifla International Summer School for Librarians to have you as a member of the faculty. The years of intensive thought which you have given to library problems prepared you for a valuable contribution notable for its depth and profundity. I am sure that all the members of the school are deeply grateful that they had the opportunity to extend their horizon under the guidance of such a distinguished member of the library profession".

CHAPTER 8

EXTRA MURAL ITEMS

81 FOLK HIGH SCHOOLS

I had been for long reading about the Folk High-Schools of Denmark and I was eager to visit one of them. The Inspector of Libraries was kind enough to help me in this matter. As it was summer, the students were all girls. Even as we entered the compound, the various arrangements for physical education attracted my notice. The leader of the school was devoted to his work. He struck me as a brilliant man. At one stage of the conversation, I was able to infer that the salary of the leaders of such schools was lower than what they could get if they changed over to other walks of life. When I asked him why they did not take advantage of such a change, he gave a very revealing reply. He said that the satisfaction of helping the adolescent youth of the country to step up to a higher level of life was sufficient compensation for the difference in salary level. Later he struck a note of pessimism on account of his disappointment that only 30 per cent. of the youth in the eligible age-group actually joined the schools and that, in spite of their best efforts, the rest would not take advantage of the provision. I believe that my explanation that it was quite a natural limit went home. As stated in Section 31, the 50 per cent. making up the two upper quartiles, as arranged by capacity for self-educability, have enough of native curiosity and adventure, urge for intellectual pursuits and capacity to draw help by themselves from books and life-situations. The lowermost quartile consists mostly of imbeciles who cannot be lifted by any means whatever to a higher level of mental life. Thus, it is only the persons of the third quartile and a few from the top layer of the lowest quartile that were in need of and could benefit by residence in a Folk High-School. The cost per pupil is about Rs. 80 for a month. There is a State grant on the basis of rupee

for rupee. The dining room and kitchen had all the modern equipments. The residential rooms were well furnished. Nearly half the day is devoted to physical education both indoor and in open air. There is training in appreciation of Music and other Fine Arts. When we were taken into the class room, I was struck by the excellent build and health of the pupils. I was charmed by their cheerful look. I accepted the invitation to address them. That gave me the opportunity to see how alert and well-informed they were. Here is a report of my address:

"Leader, Professor and Ladies,

"I crave your pardon for this intrusion into your classroom. Since I have been brought here, I must say a few words to you. I come from a far-off land. It is some 5,000 miles away. Have you seen a triangular country in the map of Asia? What is that country?

"Class: Indian.

"Yes. I come from India. I bring you the greetings of your Indian sisters. I shall also take back to them all the greetings that pour forth from so many bright, smiling faces. (Laughter).

"I have read many books on your folk high-schools. I had been longing to see one and I have seen an excellent one to-day. Are you not proud of your school?

"Class: Yes.

"It is my wish that your sisters in India should have similar schools. Don't you wish the same?

"Class: Yes.

"Till now we could not have it. But now we can have it. For we are now a free nation. Some of us are very keen that our boys and girls should have the same opportunity as you. We owe our freedom largely to one great leader of ours—Mahatma Gandhi. We call him the Father of our Nation. Hands up those who have heard of Mahatma Gandhi.

"Class: All, all, all.

"He was a great soul. He was a treasure. We were proud that he belonged to us. But we are ashamed that we should have lost him. But having lost him, we want, at least, to

live hereafter to his ideal. One of his ideals was that all should be educated. It is in exploring the means for that ideal that I am here to-day.

"Please excuse me for having disturbed the rhythm of your class and give your best wishes to your Indian brothers and sisters.

"Class: Cheers."

Each school has a library. The chief achievement of the school is that it rouses enough interest in the students to pursue the study of cultural subjects. The momentum they gain before they leave school carries the urge for further self-education through a long period of years. The extensive library system of the land provides the necessary tools for self-education.

82 ENGLISH SCHOOLS

The implementation of the Butler Act is proceeding vigorously in England. The provision in the Act for midday meal for children and the general policy that babies and mothers should have the first claim on the milk produced in the country are being carried out very thoroughly. This has caused shortage of milk for adults. But they are bearing this with good cheer and without a wholesale development of corrupt practices. This is a splendid demonstration of the relatively higher strain of character which the British schools are able to produce and maintain.

They appear to be planning to step down the effects of impersonal examination whose load is all concentrated on a few days at the very end of the school course. They seem to contemplate what was practised in Madras in 1910 and a few succeeding years—to enter the school-marks and examination-marks, if any, in the school-leaving certificate and to prescribe no minimum for pass. The school final examination did not cover all the subjects studied. The colleges and the employers—including the Government—were to exercise their own discretion in the selection of candidates for admission

for higher study and employment respectively. This led to abuse. In a few years the university began to prescribe a minimum of its own for employment. Other employers too began to do similarly. This is what happened in Madras. The way in which England will negotiate through all such development should be watched with interest. It has to be seen whether an experiment which virtually failed in Madras will prove a success in England.

At the invitation of the Secretary of the School Library Association, I visited the Alderham Public School. The boys were made to live a more vigorous and a better-balanced community life. A far greater time is devoted to physical education than in most of the Indian schools. The library work of the children also showed greater individual attention and enterprise. All this is possible since they restrict the strength of each school to a level where intimate personal relation between the teacher and the taught and among the pupils themselves could be possible. The hypertrophy of the Indian Schools is most inimical to the subtler and the more lasting objectives of formal school-education. The population of several of our schools equals that of a big village! The number of pupils in a single form in some of our schools exceeds the number of pupils in an entire school in England. I feel that this size makes automatons of teachers and victims of pupils. An uncompromising reduction in the size of each school and of each class is long overdue with us. No school should be allowed to run for private profit. Another factor which ensures healthy development of character and personality is the respect shown by the management and the public to the teachers, and the non-interference by the management in the academic work of the school.

83 CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATION

I accepted the invitation of the Syndicate of the Cambridge Local Examination to meet them at Cam-

bridge and advise them on the changes needed in that examination to meet the independent status of India. The invitation was extended to all the delegates from India to the Universities Congress of the Commonwealth which met at Oxford just a few days earlier. I was at first amazed to find that the only Indian delegate to the Congress to attend it was myself, besides two Europeans who were also India's delegates and the Secretary of the Inter-University Board. It is a pity that our countrymen who go abroad on delegation should take life easy and neglect their duty to the country. It is all the more deplorable when one finds that it is these very negligent, indifferent or at least passive sojourners that are most vocal about their achievements abroad, talk tall and publicise themselves when they come back home! Independent India should be more exacting in the standard set for delegations sent abroad and give up the old method of selecting them on mere *ex officio* or political grounds. Careerism should not be encouraged to strangle the country's welfare at all levels. India should no longer fail to watch the discharge of duty by her delegates to conferences.

831 Recommendations

The chief recommendations to the Syndicate were the continuance of the Cambridge Local Examination in India and the gradual stepping up of the standard in the Indian languages. The reasons I pressed for the first recommendation were two. Firstly, the unpsychological and blind enforcement of age-limit by the Indian Universities ostensibly on physiological grounds has a most adverse effect on the development of the exceptionally precocious boys. Stagnation in the lower classes does them no good but degenerates and even demoralises them. The Cambridge Local Examination gives them a chance to grow at their own natural rate and takes them to a higher level of mental life.

Secondly, many of the Indian boys will hereafter go to the British Universities for technical courses. The Cambridge Local Examination will secure for them an easier entry into such courses. The recommendation of the stepping up of the standard in Indian languages was pressed because the Indian boys who come to England through the door of this examination for technical courses can no longer lead an exclusive life on their return home. On the other hand, they should share their knowledge with others. The language of official and private intercourse will soon be Indian. To fit them for this new set-up, the candidates must be encouraged to attain a higher standard in an Indian language when they are at the school stage.

832 Atmosphere of Cambridge and Oxford

Many of the professors expressed their best wishes for independent India. They were anxious that the past bitterness should be forgotten and that India should continue to be a member of the Commonwealth. One very sincere and frank soul expressed the fear that if the good-will of India were lost, England might be forced to become a colony of another power! God forbid!! The virile, unperturbed, single-minded, intellectual life and work-chastity which the atmosphere of Cambridge and Oxford continues to vouchsafe in such abundance is a guarantee for the continued greatness of that splendid nation. While in the presence of some of the professors, my mind involuntarily recalled the well-known episode of Janaka's composure when he was told that Mithila was on fire. I had read about the fortitude with which the people faced the Battle of Britain. Now I saw the source for that supreme power of endurance and undaunted pursuit of one's *Dharma* under any conditions whatever.

84 UNIVERSITIES CONGRESS

As Sir Maurice Gwyer was unable to come, I happened to be the only delegate from the University of

Delhi to the Congress of the Universities of the Commonwealth which met at Oxford from 19 to 23 July 1948. When I was in Norway, I had written that I preferred to reside at Christ Church. I had a gentle letter that the Indian delegates were mostly electing the Queens and that the Pakistan delegates had elected Christ Church. I wrote back that it made no difference to me. The scout who had attended my room was an interesting old man. He had known Sir Maurice and the present Chancellor, Lord Halifax, as undergraduates residing at Christ Church. His was the fourth or fifth generation of his family serving at Christ Church; and several other cousins of his were also there. There is a charm in this hereditary attachment to an institution. Such things are all being snapped thoughtlessly in our country and the irony is that it is so done in the name of imitating forward England! I get confirmed in my feeling that few of our countrymen who spend a few years in English Universities imbibe the true spirit of England or emulate her sons in what is of lasting value—in their industry, in their scale of values and in their work-chastity. I believe that the Indians who go out hereafter from independent India will emulate the true English way and come back truly enriched mentally, ethically and spiritually.

841 The Work of the Congress

The hospitality arrangements were excellent. The independent status of India added to the dignity of the Indian delegates. There was cordiality of the highest order among the delegates. But I was rather disappointed at the turn-over. The number of formal social parties was so large that even intimate group-meetings were impossible. Neither the theory nor the practice of university education could be talked intimately with others. In fact, there was no means of knowing who could fall together into a resonant group. Even if much could not be achieved within the duration

of the Congress in the pursuit of any particular problem, it would have been of benefit if purposeful academic contact among those engaged in the investigation of the same or similar problems, could have been made and continued later by correspondence or re-union gatherings. Perhaps, University Education *qua* University Education has not yet begun to engage thought. It is only administrative problems which are brought up. Apart from these and from problems in particular sciences or disciplines which form the concern, not of a Universities Congress, but of a congress of the science or discipline concerned, there is scope for more serious and lasting work to be initiated in a Universities Congress and to be followed up from session to session. If it is meant to be only a Congress of University Administrators, it is too costly a machinery. As the executive heads of most of the universities get pitchforked into their places for short periods only unless they are politicians who bring political methods of self-perpetuation into academic bodies, the contact made in such Congresses of administrators cannot be carried forward even to the benefit of administration. Some radical change is necessary.

842 Balance of Research and Teaching Work

As a matter of fact one of the Vice-Chancellor-delegates admitted that the Congress was overweighted with administrative interests. This he said while replying to the debate which he initiated on the Balance of Research and Teaching Work in Universities. He referred to the impropriety of administrative convenience insisting on a rigid, uniform, fixation of the proportion in which the time of university teachers should be divided between research and teaching. He agreed that my objection was a substantial one. He endorsed that the view presented in the following speech of mine was of importance in the consideration of the problem:

"Mr. Chairman,

"This Balance of Teaching and Research is a very difficult question. It won't submit itself to standardisation or even simplification. I have known a university in which it is all teaching and no research, and the result has been a steady going down of the teacher and the taught. I have known also a university in which it is all research and no teaching. Here again, though there were no taught to go down, precious little of research could sprout. In fact, one wise and able researcher on the staff began to give free tuition to select students to keep himself mentally alive.

"In my case, the four years when I had no teaching to do were the most miserable. The vacuum created by the withdrawal of teaching was more painful even than the pressure of political forces at a later time. I owe what has been done by me in my subject not a little to the young minds to whom I had to teach my subject two hours a day.

"This question of balance has been beautifully discussed and reduced to a few epigrams by the Vedic seers of India. In fact, their approach to the question has been very different. In that approach we are warned that the antithesis between teaching and research is an illusion—it is an illusion due to a wrong approach. Research refers to the field of knowledge as something external. Teaching too refers to the taught as something external. It is this which brings about an antithesis. The Vedic teachers say that these two factors are intrinsic to the education of the teacher himself. They have pointed out that there are four stages in the education of anybody:

1. Learning from others and from environment;
2. Living what is learnt;
3. Meditation on what is learnt and extension of it; and
4. Teaching others.

Thus research and teaching are necessary for the fulfilment of one's own education.

"Turning to the quantitative aspect of these four stages or elements, the quantitative proportion will vary with individuals. For instance, in the case of a genius like our own mathematician Ramanujan, meditation and research was dominant: still he wished to teach. The Universities of Cambridge and Madras jointly provided the opportunity for it, though he was snatched away prematurely. In the case of some, a good deal of wrestling with growing minds may be necessary to sharpen their own minds to the point of extending the sphere of knowledge. We say water finds its own level: so also will every true teacher

find his own balance of teaching and research. It is administrative impertunity to seek to determine a uniform proportion for all. Some are slow to mature. A few years of sincere and participative teaching may open out possibilities of research in them. When the mood for research sets in, it may be necessary to release them from all teaching and allow them to devote themselves solely to research for a year or two. Once the mood for research becomes established, it may be possible for them to come back to teaching, and find out their own balance between teaching and research.

"The limiting case of an integrated teaching and research has been pictured in a Sanskrit verse. I shall give its translation as best as I can: Look at this wonder! Here under the banyan tree is a young man radiating wisdom, disseminating information, extending the boundaries of knowledge—all in silence!! Here are the old pupils sitting round him, absorbing his radiation, and feeling that all their doubts have disappeared!!!

"You can have every shade of proportion right up to this limiting case. Indeed, the balance of it to be decided in each case by its "individuating particularities" as William Blake has put it."

843 Government Lunch

Mr. Morrison, the Lord President of the Council, was the host-in-chief at the Government Lunch to the delegates to the Congress. Three delegates were asked to respond to the toast proposed by him—from England, South Africa and India. It fell to my share to act on behalf of India. I spoke as follows:

"Lord President, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

"I gladly join the previous speaker in voicing the feeling of gratefulness invoked in all the delegates by the splendid hospitality shown to us by the Government of Great Britain. The appreciation of the overseas delegates is deepened by three factors.

"In India, we have a tradition which is still remembered and even practised by some. I have seen it practised by my grandfather. Everyday, before going to the meal after the mid-day prayer, a householder should go out and invite guests to sit at his table. There are reports of cases when he had to forgo his meal because he could not get a guest. In these days of rationing, a householder has to write to his guests 'Please bring your ration with you'. In these circumstances,

the old tradition has been reduced to a ritual and a trickery. Before coming out to find guests, one has to send out an agent to report the moment when the street is clear of all human beings, so that he could shout for guests with the certainty that nobody would respond. But, one who comes to this Congress of the Universities is surprised at the lavishness of British hospitality and begins to wonder if all that talk of austerity is the creation of journalism. For, ladies and gentlemen, on Sunday last, when I was in London I weighed the programme paper for the intellectual repast at the Congress and the invitation cards for the series of lunches, teas and dinners. The latter was ten times as heavy as the former. And what is more the invitation for the first full meal was that of the Government of Great Britain.

"Apart from the economic aspect of this government lunch, there is also an educational aspect. To make things clear, I define education as the perpetual unfoldment of the personality of each citizen in its own way, at its own speed, to its own fulness. The personality has to be unfolded in all its three-fold facets—the body, the mind, and the soul. Education is beneficial only when the unfoldment in all the facets is simultaneous and harmonious. If there is a discrepancy there is illness—bodily illness and social illness. The Government of Great Britain was the first among the Governments of our Commonwealth to take responsibility for the education of one and all—for their free and compulsory education. This fact alone adds special value to the hospitality we are now enjoying from the British Government.

"There is also another fact. There has been a tendency of late to provide amply for the development of the body and the mind but to fight shy of providing for the release of the soul. The degeneracy of religion to a bundle of creeds and rituals and the emergence of competing creeds had made the educational system mistake creed for religion and eschew creed as well as religion from the curriculum. This has proved fatal. The mind has been racing and has gained mastery over nature—even over atomic nature—but the soul has been dormant. What is the result? Recurrent wars.

"Let us spend a moment on this affair. The human frame embodies two extreme elements—a trace of the divine and a trace of the devil. The divine is slow to manifest itself. But the devil is active, as the serpent, from the very beginning. The serpent ejects various poisons—selfishness, jealousy, envy, hatred, violence and so on at all levels—personal, family, class,

communal and national levels. All of us have been pursued by the snake in man. I have been pursued by it all through my career and it did strike me violently at one time. This snake in man can be subdued only by activating the soul. The snake can be charmed only by soul-force. We have been fortunate to be contemporaries of the greatest snake-charmer of the modern times. Mahatma Gandhi had been so successful in putting down violence, hatred and exploitation. His method was soul-force. The Government of Great Britain responded so splendidly to his method of non-violence, soul-force, and truth. But, alas! Gandhiji has also demonstrated the truth of the old saying that a snake-charmer ultimately dies of snake-bite. When the Mahatma was disembodied, Bernard Shaw is said to have remarked, "It is dangerous to be too good". I say it is dangerous to be a snake-charmer.

"And yet, it is significant that the Government of Great Britain is not afraid of it. For it is a splendid fact that when the war was at its worst phase for us allies, when the invasion of England was in full swing, the House of Lords agreed to devote more than one day to a resolution of the Archbishop of Canterbury that the recurring wars are due to the serpent in man and can be avoided only by activating the soul in him. As persons engaged in education we were impressed by this realistic approach of the Government. We all now realise where our educational system needs correction. It is only if that correction is made will the Kingdom of Heaven be established on earth; it is only then will true Islam spread over humanity; and it is only then can we live the refrain of the Vedas which is Peace, Peace, Peace, Santi, Santi, Santi."

85 PEASANT MUSEUM

When I was at Oslo, I had lunch one day with the Librarian of the Public Library. A Norwegian lady who was in charge of a Branch Library joined us. I was pleased to learn that she had been in India for several years. She too was glad to meet an Indian. She took me to several places. The most interesting institution which we visited was the Open Air Museum. It consists of a vast extent of land in which the ancient rural life of each outstanding valley of Norway is represented. Every exhibit is dated. It consists of a log-house, there is a guide wearing the queer costumes of the valley and

of the century to which the log-house belongs. An old lady in a log-house of the ninth-century displayed great enthusiasm in showing us round. She showed us the kitchen, the dining room, the bed-room, the sitting room and the sleeping room each with its own ninth century fittings, furniture and utensils. Many of the features reminded me of the villages of Kerala. She could speak a few English words. When we were taking leave, she said with a beaming smile, "Gandhi Country!" When my hostess asked her how she knew it, she replied in Norwegian pointing to my turban and the sandal mark on my forehead. The log-houses are all arranged in order of evolution. I very much wished that similar museums were established in our country. The puranas and particularly the *Bhagavata-purana* and its associated literature contain vivid pen-pictures of every detail of the rural setting of Sri Krishna's boyhood—the Gokula, the Brindavana, the banks of the Jumna, Dwaraka and so on. It must be possible to reconstruct ancient life from such literary evidences. The Anthropological Departments of the Indian Universities should go beyond cramming book-knowledge about foreign countries, do field-work in areas which have not yet been totally changed by modern impact, and help in the preservation of modesty of the ancient mode of life.

86 OVER-ALL IMPRESSION ABOUT ENGLAND

Before I started home, the British Council asked me to leave a sound-record of my over-all impression of what I saw in English life. I got a copy of the plate. It is reproduced here:

"As I drove from the airport towards the city of London, I was struck by the fine up-to-date condition of the new type of high road which had been laid. Before leaving India my colleagues and myself had been engaged in improving the technique of documentation work in highway engineering in collaboration with the office of the Consulting Engineer and I had to imagine many of the modern developments in the subject. This concrete demonstration, therefore, absorbed my thought for a few minutes. Then came the impact of the

automatic traffic signals which had replaced the majestic figures of the London Policemen controlling and regulating the flow of traffic, which formed such an impressive feature of London when I was here a quarter of a century ago.

"As I drove into a thicker part of the city, my heart was filled with sorrow at the sight of the frequently recurring scars of war damage and my mind recalled the terrible days of the blitz. At the same time, I was struck with a look of fortitude and determination which was still visible in the faces of people; the look had also a touch of sadness which made myself sad indeed.

"Within a few hours, I had to go to the ration-office, the efficiency of which compelled attention. I was held in pleasant conversation for a while at the end of which my ration-book passed into my hands after an objective time of ten minutes whose subjective equivalent was not more than a minute on account of the enquiries about independent India and her problems with which the officer had engaged me all along.

"I soon plunged into the library world of England. Here I found it filled with a new generation of workers. Some of the younger librarians showed evidence of great awareness of the latest phase in the development of Library Science taking shape in India, England and elsewhere. Most of my evenings were spent in the company of them. Most of them received me with affection, often amusing me with remarks like, "You have been a mystic name to us. We are now glad to realise that you are real and human". Some added with humour, "We look upon you, not with unmixed feelings, as we had to face your Five Laws and Colon Classification in our class, and examination hall". Visits to the veterans who were in charge of libraries when I was here a quarter of a century ago and who had retired like me from direct administrative work produced in us a sense of re-union.

"Visits to the libraries themselves disclosed the stride that is being made. Some of the new public libraries had a well-lit inviting look sans barriers, sans wicket-gates. In some of them, the Victorian method of collecting and receipting fines for overdue books had been replaced by a conscience box—just as we have in Indian temples—into which the late-comers dropped their coins unnoticed by the staff. How happy will humanity become and how much wastage could be avoided if civic conscience reached this level in all spheres and in all places!

"The county libraries have become plentiful. It is a sight to see bright librachines—motor vans fitted as travelling libraries

carrying about two thousand assorted books—pulled up at the road side, with its issue counter, with its smart young librarians and with the villagers young and old, rushing into it for browsing and exchange of books.

"The development of business libraries has become phenomenal. Almost every industry, commercial house and department of government is now backed by a library of its own which has a large staff and a select group of books, periodicals and pamphlets which are well pre-digested and served to the workers in the concern. Even the public libraries in some large cities are changing over to the departmental system providing a large amount of documentation service. This marks a new phase in the library development of Great Britain. It points to a definite tendency to shift the emphasis of library service from contentless relaxation to serious self-education. This was confirmed by the more serious way in which the Aslib Conference at Ashorne Hill made itself busy throughout its session discussing the improvement of information service in libraries of all kinds. In this matter, Great Britain is riding on the high tide of world tendency. I should like, however, that the Library Association and the Aslib merge into one national body without confusing the minds of those who are administrating the country by putting up rival bodies.

"The hospitality which was extended to me in all libraries and library conference was equalled only by the hospitality which the British Council provided. This body has developed a technique of handling visitors, which is remarkable. Smart, smiling officers greet one as the train pulls up, keep company whenever needed and above all make every minute of the foreign visitor's time used exactly in the way in which it can be best used in the furtherance of the purpose of the visit.

"The over-all lasting purpose is obviously the promotion of good-will between the British people and the people of other lands. This purpose is secured with splendid effect in an oblique way as the visitor is ostensibly pursuing his own subject, while he is being charged unawares by the atmosphere of kindness and efficiency through which he is taken. The local offices of the British Council provide the much-needed home-atmosphere for the foreign students in many of the university towns.

"The British Council does not depend solely on this emotional appeal. Based on friendliness, it seeks to build up an intellectual appeal.

"Its publication work featuring the different aspects of British life and work is now well-known. Its latest venture—

the annotated book-list—will go a long way in promoting the circulation of the best nascent British thought throughout the world. When I was at Paris, I found evidence of the British Council seeking to follow up his work by building up a library of British books for the use of any living anywhere in France. It was greatly appreciated and used by the French people. I had also occasion to see the working of the Books and Periodicals Department and glance through the reading materials being sent to India where, apart from distributing them among Indian libraries, there is a proposal to establish the Council's own libraries in a few cities, as it has already been done in Paris. I have every confidence that the British Council's work in India will go a long way in promoting friendship between India and Great Britain. The bitterness generated during the last century has already been healed by the genial endeavour of four souls: Mahatma Gandhi and Pt. Nehru on one side and the Mountbattens on the other. The work of the British Council will now build further and maintain cordial relation between the two great nations of our Commonwealth.

"I had always held that books are effective ambassadors of peace and I have recently stressed in my memorandum to the Government of my Motherland that the National Librarian should be empowered—nay charged—with the duty to establish and maintain what I have termed Contact Libraries in all other countries for the promotion of cultural understanding and friendly relation. My present experience of the activities of the British Council in this matter has not only confirmed this faith of mine but has also demonstrated the practicability of my suggestion. I can now press my proposal on our Government with greater confidence.

"The way in which the British people have built up the British Council during the last thirty years is typical of British genius. An idea is conceived; an *ad hoc* body is established to work it out; it is given the finance; it is allowed to work at a high level; it is given the staff; and above all it is trusted. Able men and women enter its service; I was delighted to see fresh graduates of universities working in its local offices and furthering their own education, as it were, in the art of rendering disinterested service to others. I see in the work and approach of the British Council and in the attitude of the organised British Society towards the British Council a real demonstration of the spirit of the *Bhagavad gita* which proclaims, "Do your duty without attachment but with spontaneity and love; it will bring to you and to the world at large everlasting delight and peace."

CHAPTER 9

MY WISH FOR INDIA

Having seen so many of the well-developed countries of the West, I naturally wish to conclude my impressions and reflections with an account of what I wish that our leaders should provide in our Motherland.

91 PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

911 Rural Library System

I should like that a travelling library should be carried in a motor-van to every village and hamlet once in a fortnight. It should give the rural folk all the benefits of an open access library with intimate reference service.

Every small town should have a branch library which is ever kept alive as a community centre and which has its reading materials renewed periodically with fresh ones from the Rural Central Library.

Each one of the 360 districts should have a Rural Central Library maintained by the District Board and managed by its Library Committee.

912 City Library System

Every city should have a Central Library and an adequate number of branch libraries so that any resident has a library within a few minutes' walk. The thinner outskirts of a city should be served by a travelling library as the villages are.

92 STATE CENTRAL LIBRARY

The capital of each constituent State should have a State Central Library. It should have copyright privileges. It should have a library for the blind of the State. It should be the central reservoir for the entire library system of the State. It should manage inter-library loan.

93 LIBRARY LEGISLATION

All these libraries should be statutory bodies. Each State should have its Library Act. The Act should make library provision a compulsory duty of each Local Body. It should empower raising of local library rates. It should guarantee grants to libraries from the State Treasury. It should establish a Department of Libraries. The State Librarian should manage the State Central Library, administer the Library Act and help the Ministry of Education to develop the library system of the State in a comprehensive manner so that every citizen is assured of the services of libraries which form the most effective and economical agency for the perpetual self-education of one and all—for his inspiration, information and relaxation.

The librarians of all the libraries of a State should be borne on a single cadre working under the direction of the State Librarian.

Each State Central Library should participate in the nationalised co-operative scheme of carrying out all the impersonal treatment of books such as classification and cataloguing, the building of national and international bibliographies and the simplification and standardisation of library equipment and procedure.

94 ACADEMIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

I should like that the libraries of the schools of each city should come under the technical direction of the City Librarian and those of a District similarly under the District Librarian. Their books should be interchanged periodically. The staleness of the stock in school libraries should be removed in this way.

The College Libraries should be in a better organic relation with the library of their university. I should like that librarians of academic libraries of all kinds should have the status and salary scale of their respective heads of departments.

95 BUSINESS LIBRARY SYSTEM

I should like that all the chief industries should be fed by intensive documentation service by their own libraries.

So also should the Newspaper Offices draw full help from the documentation service of their respective libraries.

951 Departmental Libraries

I should like to see each department of each of the governments in the country have a library of its own which assembles all the relevant printed information bearing on every problem coming up for disposal.

952 Legislature Libraries

So also the legislature of each State and of the Union should have a live library which feeds the non-official members with well-documented background studies on all subjects that come up for debate or legislation from time to time.

The Departmental and Legislative Library staff of each State should be under the technical direction of the State Librarian.

96 LIBRARY PERSONNEL

I should like that the Government should realise that the first quiet, invisible preparation needed for developing our library system is the training of library personnel. This step should start at least three years ahead of the implementing of library acts. The first batch to be trained should be men of powerful personality, exceptional merit and remarkable drive. Two years of intensive training in the Union College of Library Science must be followed by three months of equally intensive tour in developed countries to observe the working of their library systems. These will be the pioneers. To begin with, two such leaders must be prepared for each constituent State. From the third

year onwards while the Union College should continue to turn out graduates in Library Science to take charge of the more responsible posts calling for initiative, each State should also have a school of Library Science to train the rank and file. The pace of library development should be set by the pace of library training and should never be allowed to outstrip it.

97 NATIONAL CENTRAL LIBRARY

The way in which all these different State Library Systems should work in unison and the State Central Libraries themselves should be organised may be inferred from the more detailed picture of the National Central Library given below. This should be designed to function as the Central Power Station at which all kinds of thought-energy are assembled and to which the entire library-grid of the nation gets connected so as to avoid the results of local break-down.

971 The Collection

9711 *National Copyright Library*

The National Central Library should be a depository for all the publications of the Governments of the Union and the constituent States. It should also receive, under the Copyright Act, two copies of all the publications in the country—one for current use and one for preservation.

9712 *National Collection*

It should buy a copy of every material published in other countries on India or by Indians.

It should thus be an exhaustive collection of national literature in every sense of the term. This collection should be for the use of the present generation as well as posterity. It should be on a par with the national libraries of other lands like the British Museum Library, the Library of Congress at Washington and the National Libraries at Paris, Moscow, etc.

9713 *National Reservoir*

The National Central Library should also build up a lending section, which should correspond to the National Central Library of Great Britain. Materials in this section will not be lent directly to readers. But any reader anywhere in India can draw from it through the chain of his Local, District and State Central Libraries. This section will buy only such books as are too uneconomical for those libraries to stock because of excessive cost and infrequent use. Thus its collection will not be a theoretically well-balanced one but a true and practical supplement to the State Central Libraries. In this way it will function as the general reservoir of the Indian Library System.

9714 *National Library for the Blind*

The functions of the National Central Library should include supplementing the resources of the Libraries for the Blind maintained in the several linguistic areas. The choice of books to be brailled, the reference service to be done to the blind readers and the follow-up work can be done by the library profession more efficiently than by the organization which India may set up for the occupational and economic betterment of the Blind. A division of labour between that organisation and the National Library for the Blind is an advantage; that is what experience elsewhere has shown; advice on books is a specialised job whether it be for the blind or the sighted.

972 *Inter-Library Loan*9721 *National Bureau for Inter-Library Loan*

No State can be absolutely self-contained in library matters. Various causes contribute to this. To illustrate, there may be a few Gujaratis in Madras. It would be uneconomical for Madras to buy and stock all the Gujarati books needed by them. It would be wiser to

borrow many of these books from Bombay as and when needed. There may be a few persons in Assam who would like to consult books on cotton-manufacture. Assam may not have a sufficiently frequent demand for books on textiles to justify investment of money on them. If they do, these books may be idle most of the time. In such circumstances national economy would urge Assam borrowing such books from Madras or Bombay as and when required. It may also happen that certain out-of-print books are lying idle in one State while another State has readers who want their use but could not procure them. Here again national economy points to inter-State loan as the only solution. Many other causes will demand inter-State loan either as a necessity or as a measure of economy.

To effect this efficiently we must have a liaison apex for the entire Indian Library System. To function as this apex will be one of the paramount duties of the National Central Library.

This function of the National Central Library will give it an opportunity to bring about a healthy standard in the library systems of the constituent States. In the earlier years, it can also do much to stimulate the development of a well-co-ordinated, nation-wide, network of libraries by advice and inspiration.

9722 *International Loan*

The demand of research workers and thinkers in India is becoming more and more specialised. Their work will be handicapped and their services to the nation and through the nation to humanity at large will be frustrated if the nation does not provide for them ready access to all the published materials in their line of work. These materials may be found only in foreign languages and in foreign books and periodicals unobtainable in India. It is possible that there will not be many other readers in our country for such materials.

Ordinarily, one of two things happen; either such workers go fallow for want of the published stimulus they want, or such money is spent in buying them and after once perused, they lie absolutely idle in the country. No country finds itself rich enough to adopt this latter course; and no country can escape being accused of criminal irresponsibility if the unfoldment of the gifted few of its sons is denied or retarded for want of the books they want.

A realisation of this dilemma has led to a healthy system of international loan and bibliographical service. The working of this system requires that there should be an International Library Centre in each country. It is best that the National Central Library which is in charge of inter-State loan should also look after international loan. The bureau for Inter-State and International Library Loan of the National Central Library will thus be in charge of inter-library loan work at all levels. The experience of the National Librarian will be unique and just of that kind that fits him to be the best representative of India in all library matters touching the international sphere.

973 International Exchange

Knowledge is international; culture will get inter-related; intellectual progress will have to be on world-basis. Books are, therefore, effective ambassadors. There is an increasing tendency among nations to have their publications exchanged. This is now beginning at the level of government publications and will soon reach the level of other publications as well. It will be a necessary function of the National Central Library to develop and handle this means of international intercourse. For this purpose, it must maintain a National Bureau of International Exchange.

974 Co-ordination of Departmental Libraries

Delhi is rich in special libraries. They are all maintained by the departments of the Government of

India. A few such special libraries, which ought to shift to Delhi eventually, are now temporarily housed elsewhere. Most of these special libraries, though they are all owned by the same Government, have hardly any influence on one another. Surely they can be put to a much greater use if they are co-ordinated effectively at the level of book-selection, centralised at the level of the staff and of the technical treatment of books such as classification and cataloguing, but left free at the level of actual service to the members of the department. It is quite possible for the National Central Library to regulate the co-ordinated and centralised jobs in the Departmental Libraries without any detraction from their autonomy. Such a co-ordination will make their use by the officers far easier than it is now and there will also result a considerable economy. The influence of the National Central Library will make them function up.

At present there is no co-ordinating agency. No doubt it is possible for enthusiastic librarians of some of the Departmental Libraries to meet and arrive at some helpful standards. But it is neither wise nor economical to leave this important question to such a casual chance. The co-ordination effected by the National Central Library will be more certain, compelling and stable. Under its influence the service of a Departmental Library will not only be more efficient to its own clientele but it can be profitably extended so that other departments also find it easy to benefit by its specialised collection. This will eventually lead to a level of national economy where every rupee spent on any Departmental Library goes the longest possible way.

At present each Departmental Library is functionally ineffective and fails to contribute fully to the work of the department. Book-selection is haphazard and even unrelated to the needs of the department. The organisation of books is primitive in many departments. If the

National Librarian takes charge of them, he can step up their efficiency in every direction.

975 Sea-farer's Library

It should be the duty of the National Librarian to establish and manage Sea-farer's Libraries in the chief Indian ports. Libraries may have to be maintained also in foreign parts like Newcastle where Indian sailors are obliged to stay long during periods of overhauling. Books should be sent to the ships and arrangements should be made for periodical exchange.

976 Contact Libraries

To promote cultural contact, India should establish Contact Libraries in foreign countries. America and England are already exploring and experimenting on the potentiality of this idea. The reading materials of India's Contact Libraries abroad should be chosen only from among those that get created spontaneously and circulated freely within India—books which blossom out of the hearts of the people and those that embody the outcome of their intellect. The fact that such books are patronised and read by our own people is a guarantee of their veracity. They will present to the foreigners the true personality of India. They will have that respect for truth which Mahatma Gandhi has always insisted upon.

The service of Contact Libraries should be kept quite apart from the information service which the Indian Embassy may be having in each foreign country. The service of the Contact Libraries will have a greater cultural bias than the service of the Embassies. Even on the informative side, Contact Libraries will confine themselves more to things of permanent value, whereas the Embassies will have to emphasise things of momentary importance.

The Ministry of Education is more likely to keep on to things of permanent value than the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs. In the Ministry of Education, it is the National Librarian that has got the maximum facility to manage the Contact Libraries abroad.

977 NATIONAL BUREAU OF DOCUMENTATION

To-day the number of publications in the world is so great and the fields of study in which specialists are engaged are also so many, that an economic division of labour must be devised, in which the selection, digestion and proper featuring of the nascent thought in every field of knowledge is best left in the hands of a newly rising specialist vocation *viz.* that of bibliographers.

Till recently this important work was done by the workers in the different fields of knowledge. But it was felt that the world can ill afford to waste men with gift for research in particular fields on this work of documentation or building bibliographies. Further, it has been found that the technique of documentation requires special training and life-long attention which cannot be found or spared by those whose primary interest is the pursuit of some positive knowledge.

This situation has led to many make-shifts since the turn of the present century. About half a century's experimentation is leading to a recognition of the fact that it is wise to deem bibliography-building as a specialist job and that the library profession must bear most of its burden.

978 National Bureau of Co-operative Classification and Cataloguing

Each library in India will require a copy of many of the commoner books; it will buy it; and it will have to get it classified and catalogued. It is a national waste for perhaps a thousand classifiers and cataloguers to do this self-same work on the self-same book in their

respective libraries. National economy will be secured, a high order of conformity to standards will become automatic, and no kind of wrong will be done to the libraries themselves, if these technical and impersonal jobs are done centrally at one stroke for all the copies of a book. For example the books in the common languages of India may be dealt with by the technical staff of the National Central Library, and those in the language of a State may be treated in its own Central Library in conformity with the standards approved by the National Central Library. This mode of national economy is already in vogue in the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.; it is now being implemented in Norway, Poland and Denmark; it is happening there long after the library movement got under way and the need to eliminate the wastage involved in not adopting centralised classification and cataloguing was felt. In our own country where library movement has yet to be set on foot we can gain by the experience of others and secure from the very beginning, co-ordination and national economy. As in other fields of national life so also in the development of library service, a planned organisation is necessary in order to distribute technical and impersonal work economically between Union, State and Local initiative. The National Central Library is the proper agency to take charge of this work of co-ordination through its National Bureau for Co-operative Classification and Cataloguing.

979 National Librarian

The National Central Library will not be sufficiently broad-based if it is entrusted in the formative years to the care of a department in charge of formal education. The result will be still worse if its character is to be coloured by archival methods and outlook. It should not be made a Cinderella in any manner. To develop it in a way that will not hinder progress and growth,

the Union Government should straightaway appoint the National Librarian and entrust the scheme to him.

The first National Librarian should be a person of profound professional knowledge, ripe experience, daring vision, single-minded devotion to his job and an integrity which will ensure successful pioneership. He should be worthy of being the representative of the library personality of India in the international sphere. He should be the channel of communication between the National Library System of India and those of other countries.

The National Librarian should be not only the head of the National Central Library but also the head of the Department of Libraries of the Union Government. In the latter capacity, he should be the technical head of the library staff of all the Departmental Libraries of the Government of India, and provide for their in-training and placing. He will be assisted by the Library Secretariat in all administrative matters and by the professional staff of the National Central Library in all technical matters. His influence should permeate the entire library system of the country. Without any official interference, but by suggestion and exchange of experience and thought, he should vitalise all the libraries from the rural travelling library to the National Central Library.

98 LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

It is my fervent wish and prayer that the National Central Library should be put into operation immediately and that the National Librarian should be put in the picture as the very first step and commissioned to start and implement gradually but fully the thirty-year programme for India as a whole which I have described in detail in my *Library development plan* (1950). The first draft of this book was made in 1946. It was then as usual put into the incubator. It was revised early

in 1948 to suit the independent political status of India. The opportunity to make a library tour of the more developed countries of Europe and America led to its being again put into the incubator. After the tour, the draft has been finally revised. It contains the best plan that I can recommend to our Motherland. It puts within the compass of a small book all I wish to see done within the next thirty years. May God grant the fulfilment of this wish!

ANNEXURE

Itinerary and Diary

7- 6-1948	2-40 P.M.	Leave Delhi	
9- 6-1948	8 A.M.	Arrive London	
	10 A.M.	British Council, 54, Portland Place, London W.1	
	11 A.M.	India House, Aldwych W.C.1.	MR. M. S. SUNDARAM
10- 6-1948	10 A.M.	India House	... MR. V. K. KRISHNA MENON
	2-30 P.M.	Swedish Institute, 49, Egerton Crescent, S.W.3	DR. ASTA KIHLOM
	3 P.M.	Danish Embassy, 29, Pout St., S.W. 1.	MR. WARBERG
	4 P.M.	Norwegian Embassy, 10, Palace Green W. 8	
	5 P.M.	Library Association, Chancer House, Malet Place W.C. 1.	MR. P. S. J. WELSFORD MR. D. C. HENRICK JONES
11-6-1948		Eastbourne	... SIR MAURICE GWYER
12-6-1948	11-30 A.M.	Leave London	
	12-55 P.M.	Arrive Paris	
	2 P.M.	Unesco	... MR. P. J. CARTER
	5 P.M.	American Library, 9 Rue De Telheran	... MISS LA BOURGET
13-6-1948	9-0 A.M.	Library of the National Assembly	
14-6-1948	9-30 A.M.	Unesco	... MR. P. J. CARTER, MR. J. B. RAID, MR. ZUCKERMANN.
	2 P.M.	National Library	... M. CAIN, MME. CHABRIEST, MME. S. BRIET.
	5 P.M.	Indian Embassy, 31 Rue De La Baume.	... MR. N. R. PILLAI
15- 6-1948	9-30 A.M.	Unesco	... DR. MÖLER.
	10 A.M.	Library of the National Assembly	
	11 A.M.	National Centre for Bibliography, Sorbonne	... DR. WYART.
	12-30 P.M.	Unesco's Luncheon Party	... DR. JEAN THOMAS and Others.
	2 P.M.	British Council's Library	
	5-30 P.M.	Talk on "Library Classification" at the Unesco	

LIBRARY TOUR

16- 6-1948	9	A.M.	Leave Paris	
	12	NOON	Arrive the Hague	
	2	P.M.	F. I. D., Patent Office, 6, William Witsenplein	MR. DONKER DUYVIS MR. C. LE MEISTRE.
17- 6-1948	9-30	A.M.	Opening Session, F.I.D. Conference	
	10	A.M.	Committee for the U.D.C.	
	2	P.M.	I.S.O. Committee 46	
	7	P.M.	Committee on Make-up of Periodicals, Hotel Pomona	
18- 6-1948	9-30	A.M.	I.S.O. Committee 46	
	2	P.M.	I.S.O. Committee 46	
	3	P.M.	Address on "Comparative Classification"	
	5	P.M.	Reception by Minister for Economic Affairs, Kas- teel Oud-Wassenar.	
18- 6-1948	7	P.M.	Committee on Make-up of Periodicals, Hotel Pomona.	
19- 6-1948	9	A.M.	I.S.O. Committee 46	
	2	P.M.	Committee for U.D.C.	
	5	P.M.	Burgomaster's Recep- tion, 26 Javastraat	
20- 6-1948	9	A.M.	Leave for Amsterdam	
	7	P.M.	Arrive the Hague	
21- 6-1948	10	A.M.	Meeting of Council of F.I.D. in the Lairese- zeel, Ridderzaal Binen- hot	
	1	P.M.	Ministry of Economic Affairs Library	
	2	P.M.	Parliament Library	
	3-30	P.M.	Meeting of Council of F.I.D.	
	5	P.M.	Committee on Constitu- tion	
	7-30	P.M.	Common Dinner at "De Witthe" 24 Plain	
22- 6-1948	9	A.M.	Rotterdam	
	2	P.M.	Meeting of Council of F.I.D. Town Hall, Rotterdam	
	4	P.M.	Mayor's Reception	
	7	P.M.	Arrive the Hague	

ITINERARY AND DIARY

23- 6-1948	10	A.M.	Royal Library	DR. VAN BRUNAMEL
	11	A.M.	Public Library	
	12	NOON	Palace of Peace Library	DR. JACOTTERMANLAR
	2	P.M.	Closing Session	
23- 6-1948	4-30	P.M.	Reception by the Netherlands Institute for Documentation, Binnenhot.	
24- 6-1948	12	NOON	Leave the Hague	
	4-25	P.M.	Arrive Copenhagen	
	5-30	P.M.	Completion of the Work of the Committee on the Make-up of Periodicals	... DR. A. G. DRACHMANN
25- 6-1948	8-45	A.M.	University Library	... DR. JEAN ANKER, DR. A. G. DRACHMANN
	2	P.M.	Royal Library	MR. SVEND DAHL
	3	P.M.	International Exchange Department	... MR. SVEND DAHL DR. SCHMIDT FRISSEL-DECK
	5	P.M.	Deer Park	... MR. SVEND DAHL and DR. & MRS. FRISSEL-DECK
26- 6-1948	9	A.M.	Office of the Director of Libraries	... MR. E. ALLERSLEV JENSEN
	10	A.M.	Frederiksberg Public Library	
	12	NOON	Hillelslev, Folk high-school	... MR. GRUNDTVIGS
	3	P.M.	Karlebo, Parish Library	
27- 6-1948	11	A.M.	Royal Library	... MR. SVEND DAHL, DR. JEAN ANKER, MRS. JEAN ANKER, DR. A. G. DRACHMANN
27- 6-1948	3-15	P.M.	Bibliographical Institute	MR. E. ALLERSLEV JENSEN
	8-55	P.M.	Leave Copenhagen	
	9-45	P.M.	Arrive Stockholm	
28- 6-1948	8-45	A.M.	Leave for Upsala	
	9-30	A.M.	University Library	... DR. KLEBERG DR. OLF VON FRILITZEN
	3	P.M.	Public Library	
	5	P.M.	Rural Central Library	

LIBRARY TOUR

29- 6-1948	10-15	A.M.	Parliament Library	...	DR. WYONGE
	11-30	A.M.	Royal Library	...	DR. O. WIESELGREN MR. ROHNSTROM
	3	P.M.	Swedish Institute		
	4	P.M.	National Association of Swedish Architects, 20, Sturegaten	...	DR. KARL BITTNER
30- 6-1948	5-30	P.M.	Sparrings Kesseskapa- Brick, Utstcelen, 3, Ridder-Gaten	...	MR. E. SPARRINGS
	11	A.M.	State Bureau of Public Libraries	...	MISS MUNTHE
30- 6-1948	1-30	P.M.	Labour Union which Co- ordinates the work of study circles, 37, Line- gatten		
	3	P.M.	Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences		MR. EDY VELANDER
	5	P.M.	Saltjebannan	...	MR. AXEL MUNTHE, DR. SAHNI
1- 7-1948	9	A.M.	Railway Library	...	MISS ARNE EGNELL
	10-30	A.M.	Public Library	...	PROF. KHUDSON
	2	P.M.	Library of Royal In- stitute of Technology...		DR. CARL BJORKBONS MISS LINDSTADT
2- 7-1948	7-15	A.M.	Leave Stockholm		
	9-15	A.M.	Arrive Oslo		
	10-30	A.M.	Office of the Director of Libraries, Parkenstrat		
	12-30	P.M.	Deichmonske bibliotak		
3- 7-1948	10	A.M.	University and Royal Library	...	MR. H. KRAGNUS
4- 7-1948	10	A.M.	Peasant Museum		
5- 7-1948	10	A.M.	Parliament Library		
	2	P.M.	Library of Oriental Ins- titute	...	DR. GEORG MORGEN- STIERNE
6- 7-1948	7-45	A.M.	Leave Oslo		
	1	P.M.	Arrive London		
	3	P.M.	Chancer House, Library Association	...	MR. B. I. PALMER
7- 7-1948			Croydon Public Library		MR. L. A. SHARP MR. W. C. BERWICK SAYERS
	10	A.M.	British Museum Library		MR. C. B. OLDMAN, MR. F. C. FRANCIS
8- 7-1948	2-15	P.M.	University of London Library	...	MR. PFAFFORD MISS QUINN

ITINERARY AND DIARY

9- 7-1948	10	A.M.	Royal Empire Society Library, Northumberland Avenue ...	MR. JAMES PACKMAN
	12-30	P.M.	British Library of Political and Economic Science, Houghton Street, Aldwych ...	MR. C. WOLEDGE
	3-30	P.M.	Patent Office Library, 25, Southampton Buildings ...	MR. W. E. WHITE
10- 7-1948	10	A.M.	Science Museum Library, Imperial Institute Road, S.W. 7 ...	MR. S. E. JANSEN
	1	P.M.	Reading ...	DR. F. H. GRAVELY
11- 7-1948	12-7	P.M.	Littlehampton, Old House, East Street ...	MR. WYNDHAM HULME
	5	P.M.	Eastbourne ...	SIR MAURICE GWYER
12- 7-1948	11	A.M.	Ministry of Town and Country Planning Library, 32, St. James Sq. S.W. 1 ...	MISS WALKER
	1	P.M.	India House Lunch for Universities Congress Delegates	
13- 7-1948	10	A.M.	British Aluminium Co. Library 27/28 Finsbury Sq. E.C. 2 ...	MISS LEWIS
	2-30	P.M.	Leyton Libraries ...	MR. E. SYDNEY, DR. ERIKA LANDSBURG
	5	P.M.	Ilford Library ...	MR. A. J. WELLS
14- 7-1948	11	A.M.	India Office Library ...	DR. RANDALL
	2-15	P.M.	Parliament Library ...	MR. SAUNDERS
	3-30	P.M.	East India Association, St. James Sq.	
15- 7-1948			Middlesex County Libraries	
16- 7-1948			Couldson and Purely Libraries ...	MR. BUTCHER, MR. HAWKINS
17- 7-1948	11	A.M.	Westminster Library, 6, Charing Cross Road ...	MR. L. MCCOLVIN
	2	P.M.	Purely Corner ...	MR. PALMER
	4-30	P.M.	Lecture, Tamil Sangam, Indian Students' Hostel	
	8-30	P.M.	London University Convocation	
18- 7-1948	10	A.M.	Chaucer House. Discussion of Optional Facet Formula	
	6-30	P.M.	British Council. Reception 54 Portland Place	

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19- 7-1948	1-45 P.M.	Leave for Oxford	... RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF HALIFAX
	5-30 P.M.	Opening of the Commonwealth Universities Congress, Sheldonian Theatre	
	8-45 P.M.	Vice-Chancellor's Reception at Christ Church	
20- 7-1948	9 A.M.	Plenary Session. Relations of the State and the Universities. Examination Schools, High Street	... MR. FREDERICK MORRISON
	1 P.M.	Government Lunch, Christ Church	
	3-30 P.M.	Mayor's Reception, Town Hall	
	8 P.M.	British Council Film Show	
21- 7-1948	9 A.M.	Plenary Session. Inter-University Relations. Examination Schools, High Street	
	1-15 P.M.	University Lunch at Exeter	
	2-30 P.M.	Convocation, Sheldonian Theatre	
	4 P.M.	Somerville College Garden Party	
	5-15 P.M.	Nuffield's Reception, Rhodes House	
	7-30 P.M.	University Dinner, Christ Church	
22- 7-1948	9 A.M.	Plenary Session. Produced by Technological Advance	... DR. F. W. THOMAS
	1 P.M.	University Bureau's Lunch at the Queen's	
	2 P.M.	Bodicote, near Bunbury, Oxford	
	4 P.M.	Reception, St. Johns	
	4-45 P.M.	Plenary Session. Balance of Research and Teaching	
	7-30 P.M.	University Dinner. Christ Church	
23- 7-1948	9 A.M.	Plenary Session. Colonial Higher Education	
	1-15 P.M.	University Lunch at St. Johns	
	5 P.M.	Arrive London	

ITINERARY AND DIARY

24- 7-1948	9	A.M.	Royal Institute of Architects, Portland Place W.C. 1	
25- 7-1948			Southampton Public Library	... Mr. L. A. BURGESS
26- 7-1948	1	P.M.	Arrive London	
	2	P.M.	Indian Students' Hostel, Annual Meeting, Beveridge Hall, University of London	
	7	P.M.	Arrive Cambridge	
	8	P.M.	Cambridge University Dinner, King's College	
27- 7-1948	10	A.M.	Meeting of Syndicate	
	1	P.M.	University Lunch, Selwyn College	
	2	P.M.	Cambridge University Library	
	6	P.M.	Arrive London	
28- 7-1948	11	A.M.	Ministry of Education	
	2	P.M.	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Library	... Mr. R. J. HOY
	3	P.M.	Lecture at Chaucer House	
29- 7-1948	10	A.M.	Books and Periodicals Department British Council, Grosvenor Sq.	
	5	P.M.	Leave London	
30- 7-1948	2	P.M.	Arrive New York	
31- 7-1948	10	A.M.	University Library, Princeton	... DR. JULIAN P. BOYD
	2	P.M.	Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton	
1- 8-1948			Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton	
	6	P.M.	Arrive New York	
2- 8-1948	10	A.M.	Opening Session, International Advisory Committee of Library Experts, Lake Success	
	2	P.M.	Security Council Meeting	
3- 8-1948	10	A.M.	New York Public Library	
	5	P.M.	Director's Reception, Rockefeller Plaza	
4- 8-1948	10	A.M.	Plenary Session	
5- 8-1948	10	A.M.	Sub-committee on General Library Policy	

LIBRARY TOUR

5- 8-1948	6-30	P.M.	Reception by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Swiester, Venniturth, Great Neck, Long Island	
6- 8-1948	10	A.M.	Sub-committee on General Library Policy	
	7	P.M.	Carnegie Corporation Dinner, Men's Faculty Club, Columbia University, Morningside Drive 17th Street	MR. WHITNEY H. SHEPHERSONS
7- 8-1948	10	A.M.	Plenary Session	
8- 8-1948	10	A.M.	144-20 Village Road, Parkway Village, Jamaica	SIR C. V. RAMAN, DR. C. CHANDRASEKARAN & MR. NARAYANAN
9- 8-1948	10	A.M.	Closing Session	
10- 8-1948	10	A.M.	Department of Library Science, Columbia University	PROF. EARL M. WHITE, PROF. LOWELL MARTEN
	6	P.M.	Leave New York	
	10	P.M.	Arrive Washington	
11- 8-1948	9	A.M.	Library of Congress	MR. V. CLAPP
	12-30	P.M.	International Relations Committee Lunch	MR. EVANS and Others
	3	P.M.	Library of the Department of Agriculture	MR. RALPH SHAW
	6	P.M.	Dinner with Mr. Clapp	
12- 8-1948	9-45	A.M.	Indian Embassy, 2700 Macombe St. N.W.	SIR B. RAMA ROW
	10-30	A.M.	Army Medical Library	
	2	P.M.	Library of Congress	MR. CHILDS
	8	P.M.	Lecture at Library of Congress	
13- 8-1948	10	A.M.	Record Office	
13- 8-1948	11	A.M.	Library of Congress Conference on Cataloguing	
	2	P.M.	Classification & Cataloguing Division	
13- 8-1948	3	P.M.	Decimal Classification Office	
	4	P.M.	Indic Division	DR. POLEMAN
	6	P.M.	Dinner with American Council of Learned Societies	
	10	P.M.	Leave Washington	

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14- 8-1948	7	A.M.	Arrive New Haven	
	9	A.M.	Yale University Library	
	3	P.M.	Arrive New York	
	7	P.M.	Leave New York	
15- 8-1948	1	P.M.	Arrive London	
16- 8-1948	10	A.M.	Chaucer House	
	9	P.M.	India House. Independence Day Reception	
17- 8-1948	10	A.M.	British Council's Book—Department	JOHN HAMPDEN
18- 8-1948	12	NOON	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	MR. CYRIL C. BERNARD
	2	P.M.	Islington Public Libraries	MR. L. M. HARROD
20- 8-1948	10	A.M.	Leave London	
	6-50	P.M.	Arrive Glasgow	
21- 8-1948	10	A.M.	University Library	
	2	P.M.	Mitchel Library	MR. JAMES CAMPBELL and MR. GORDON JACK
	4	P.M.	Gorbels District Library	MR. JOHN, McSKIMMING
			Riddrie District Library	MR. DANIEL YOUNGER
			Discussion with Lecturer, School of Librarianship	MR. W. B. PATON
22- 8-1948	11	A.M.	Leave Glasgow	
	12	NOON	Arrive Edinburgh	
	2	P.M.	Liberten Brae	MISSSES ROSS
	5	P.M.		MRS. SKINNER
	7	P.M.		DR. E. W. KIBBLE
23- 8-1948	10	A.M.	University Library	DR. L. W. SHARP
	4	P.M.		SIR E. T. WHITTAKER
24- 8-1948	10	A.M.	National Library	MR. R. DOBIE
	2	P.M.	Public Libraries	MR. R. BUTCHART
25- 8-1948	10-15	P.M.	Leave Edinburgh	
	1	P.M.	Arrive Newcastle	
	4	P.M.	Library of the Literary and Philosophical Library, West Gate Road	MR. F. RUTHERFORD
	5	P.M.	Regional Library	
26- 8-1948	10-30	A.M.	City Library New Bridge St.	MR. AUSTIN HINTON

LIBRARY TOUR

26- 8-1948	3	P.M.	Kings College Library, College Road ...	MR. R. O. MCKENNA
	7	P.M.	Address Northern Branch of the Library Associa- tion, Library & Philo- sophical Lecture Thea- tre, Westgate Road	
27- 8-1948	10-10	A.M.	Leave Newcastle	
	12-55	P.M.	Arrive Leeds	
	3	P.M.	Public Library	
	7	P.M.	Group Meeting	
28- 8-1948	10	A.M.	University Library	
	3	P.M.	Public Library and Bran- ches	
29- 8-1948	10	A.M.	Leave Leeds	
	1	P.M.	Arrive Manchester	
30- 8-1948	—19-9-1948		Manchester. Unesco-Ifla International Summer School of Librarian- ship	
1- 9-1948	2	P.M.	Press Conference	
2- 9-1948	5	P.M.	Mayor's reception	
3- 9-1948	2	P.M.	Central Library ...	MR. CHARLES NOWELL
7- 9-1948	9	A.M.	County Libraries, Der- byshire ...	MR. E. OSBORNE
8- 9-1948	4	P.M.	Lancashire County Lib- rary	MISS F. E. COOK
	8	P.M.	Toc H. Meeting ...	
9- 9-1948	7-30	P.M.	British Council Recep- tion	
11- 9-1948	10	A.M.	Leave Manchester	
	3	P.M.	Arrive Birmingham	
	3-15	P.M.	Public Library ...	MR. F. J. PATRICK
11- 9-1948	5	P.M.	Address on "Challenge of the Field of Knowledge" at the Conference of the Universities and Research Branch of the Library Association	
12- 9-1948	9	A.M.	Leave Birmingham	
	12	NOON	Arrive Hereford	
	1	P.M.	County Library of Here- ford ...	MR. A. SHAW WRIGHT
	2	P.M.	Chained Library, Here- ford Cathedral	
	3	P.M.	Leave Hereford	
	6	P.M.	Arrive Birmingham	
	9	P.M.	Meeting of the Universi- ties and Research Bran- ch of the Library Asso- ciation	

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13- 9-1948	9	A.M.	Leave Birmingham
	12	NOON	Arrive Manchester
	7	P.M.	Address at Jinnah Memorial Meeting, International House
14- 9-1948	7	P.M.	Address on "The Throbbing New Life in India" at the International House
15- 9-1948	7	P.M.	Address at the Manchester Public Libraries' Association
16- 9-1948	7	P.M.	Reception at Central Library
17- 9-1948	2	P.M.	John Rylands Library
	7	P.M.	Group Conference with the Indian Students at the International House
18- 9-1948	8	A.M.	Leave Manchester
	2	P.M.	Arrive Leamington Spa
			Aslib Conference
18- 9-1948			" "
	4	P.M.	Leave Leamington Spa
	9	P.M.	Arrive London
20- 9-1948	10	A.M.	Cranfield. College of Aeronautics
	3	P.M.	Chaucer House. Opening of the Meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations
	6	P.M.	Reception. British Council
21- 9-1948	10	A.M.	Catalogue Rules Subcommittee, University College
	2	P.M.	Birkbeck College Library
	3	P.M.	Exchange of Librarians Subcommittee, University of London
22- 9-1948	10	A.M.	Professional Education Subcommittee, University College
	8	P.M.	Reception. Library Association
23- 9-1948	10	A.M.	Plenary Session
23- 9-1948	3	P.M.	Closing Session
	8	P.M.	Reception by Ministry of Education

LIBRARY TOUR

24- 9-1948	6	P.M.	Swedish Institute Reception, 49 Egerton Crescent S.W. 3. ...	DR. ASTA KIHLBOM
	7	P.M.	Dinner at the Athenaeum	
25- 9-1948	9	A.M.	Oxford with the International Library School	
26- 9-1948	11-45	A.M.	Leave London	
	12-25	P.M.	Arrive Guildford for Lea Gate House, Bramby, Surrey	MR. C. LE MAISTRE, PRESIDENT, ASLIB and F.I.D.
	3	P.M.		LORD PETHWICK-LAWRENCE
	9	P.M.	Arrive London	
29- 9-1948	2	P.M.	National Central Library, Malet Place, W.C. 1	MR. R. H. HILL
	4	P.M.	Sound Recording of Impressions at White Horse Street, Piccadilly	
	5	P.M.	British Council ...	SIR JOHN SARGENT, MR. ELTON
	7-30	P.M.	Address: Indian Students' Hostel	
29- 9-1948	10	A.M.	Chaucer House	
	2-30	P.M.	Address at School of Librarianship, City Literary Institute, Stuckby Street W.C. 2 ...	MR. KEMP
29- 9-1948	7	P.M.	Lecture on "Self-perpetuating classification", Joint Meeting of Aslib and Society of Visiting Scientists, 15, Old Burlington St., W. 1	
30- 9-1948	10	A.M.	House of Commons Library ...	MR. H. S. HYLAND
	2	NOON	Chatham House, Newspaper Cuttings Service	
	3	P.M.	Aldenharn School ...	MR. C. A. STOTT
	7	P.M.	Dinner with Mr. F. C. Francis, Elstree, Herts, Mill Hill N.W. 7	
1-10-1948	9	A.M.	National Book League 7 Albemarle Street W.1	
	1	P.M.	Lecture at School of Librarianship, Technical College, Brighton	MR. LOCKWOOD
	6	P.M.	Arrive Eastbourne ...	SIR MAURICE GWYER
	9	A.M.	Public Library	MR. WILFRID HYNES
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3-10-1948	5	P.M.	Leave London	
5-10-1948	11	A.M.	Arrive Delhi	

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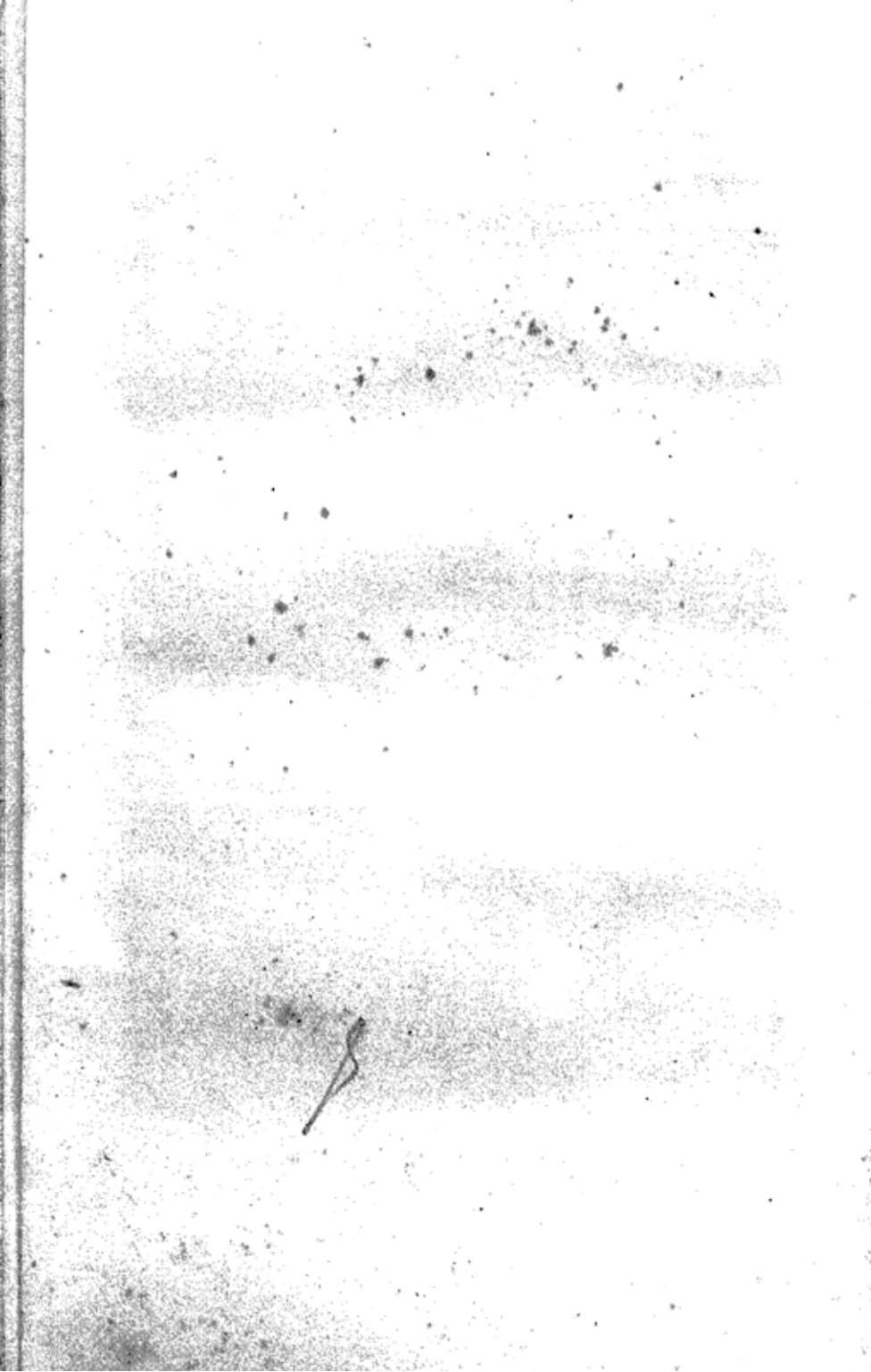
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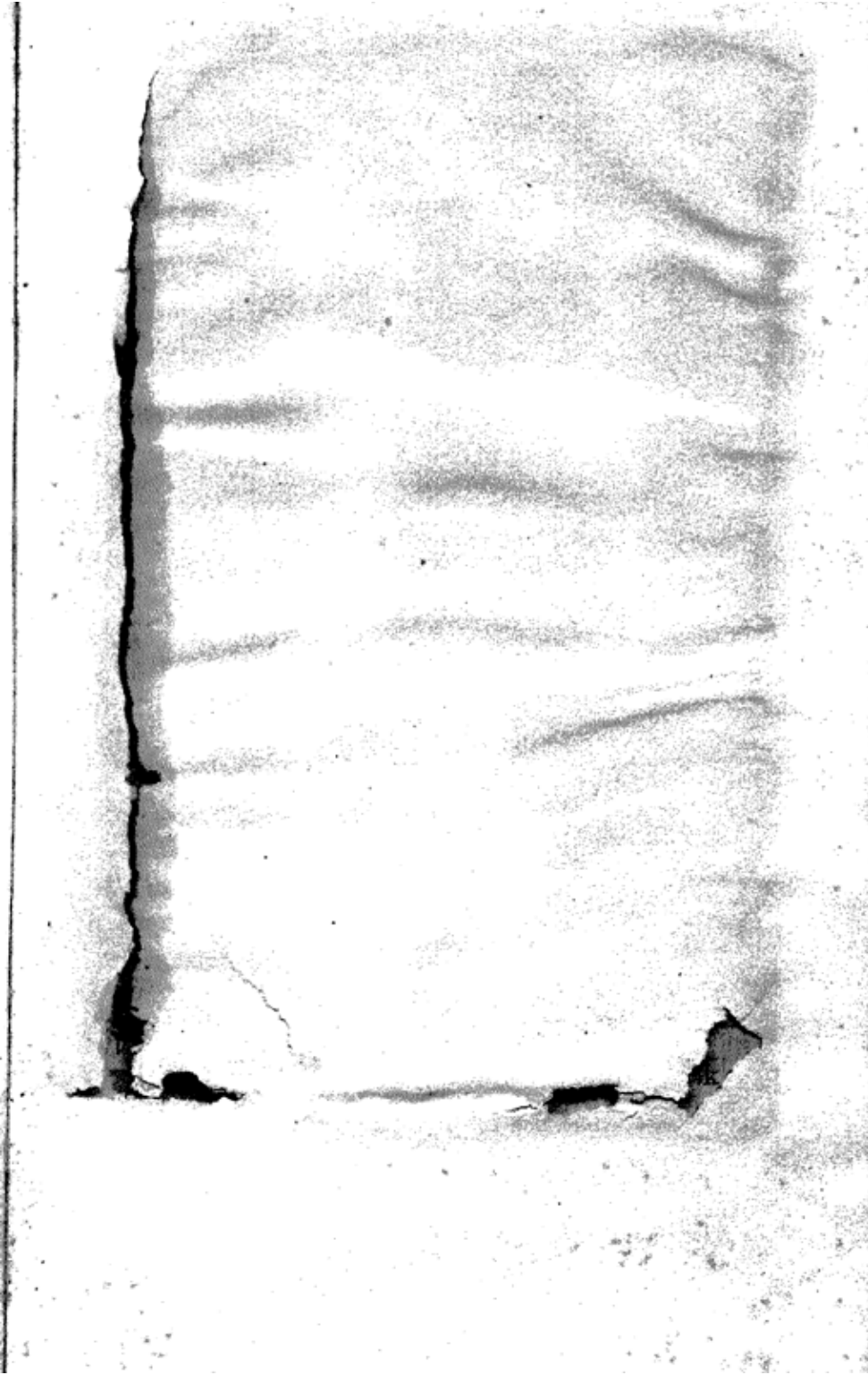
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